

Martha Gellhorn: A Life of Wit and Rage

She was a pacifist until the Spanish Civil



"When she spoke about the Spanish Civil War in that dry-ice way, which camouflaged her deepest feelings, you knew that in some sense she was still in pain."

"It's always wrong. The people who run it are too stupid to be true and the upshot is that they get it in the neck. Now I have to go because I'm feeling rather ill. Thank you for calling." Her answers were perfect, always. Are you being serious after, Martha? I asked. "Yes," she said. "Fine."

Against this backdrop, there have been some tentative signs that the government is loosening its grip on the political debate. In the last year, for instance, more and more criticism has appeared in the eight newspapers pub-

Mr. Keller's team is in Freetown to assess relief needs. He was accompanied by officials of various relief agencies.

The government ordered China Air lines' Airbus fleet grounded on Tuesday

Gallo	80	70	good	wet	Var	16/2	<i>g. snow all runs; bit wet low down</i>
Switzerland							
Crans Montana	15	215	Good	Art	spring	21/1	<i>good skiing continues in most areas</i>

Slovenia's tourist income fell 4 percent in 1997, to \$1.18 billion, despite a 10 percent increase in the number of visits, the Chamber of Economy said. The drop was due largely to the strong U.S. dollar and lower duty-free sales, gasoline sales along the Italian border and casino revenues. (Reuters)

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	Today		Tomorrow	
	C/F	Low/High	C/F	Low/High
Almaty	77/44	-5/24 pc	1/24	-5/24 pc
Bali	34/29	24/75 pc	33/31	24/75 pc
Bangkok	34/29	23/73 pc	33/31	23/73 pc
Beijing	5/48	7/44 f	1/4/59	5/53
Bombay	27/82	18/87 f	26/81	18/87 f
Calcutta	27/80	19/81 pc	26/79	18/83 pc
Chiang Mai	34/23	19/55 pc	33/31	14/57 pc
Colombo	31/68	22/71 pc	31/48	22/71 pc
Hanoi	23/80	21/78 pc	23/73	21/78 pc
Hong Kong	27/82	19/86 pc	26/77	19/86 pc

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THE AMERICAS

Clinton Seeks Dismissal
Of Paula Jones Lawsuit

Her Career Wasn't Hurt, His Lawyers Say

By Peter Baker and Lois Romano
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — President Bill Clinton has asked a federal court to throw out Paula Jones's sexual harassment lawsuit, arguing that she has not proved she suffered career harm or serious emotional anguish even if he did sexually proposition her in a hotel suite in 1991, as she claims.

In the filing Tuesday, Mr. Clinton's lawyers, as they have in the past, said he vehemently denies "exposing himself and asking Mrs. Jones for sex while he was governor of Arkansas and she was a low-level state clerk. But in a motion seeking to avoid a trial May 27, the lawyers maintained that Mrs. Jones had not demonstrated that he retaliated against her for rebuffing a sexual advance, assuming for the sake of argument that it happened.

The thick file of documents and exhibits delivered to U.S. District Court in Little Rock, Arkansas, gave the first glimpse of the evidence collected during five months of discovery that until now has been sealed by a judge's confidentiality order. The hundreds of papers contained excerpts from Mrs. Jones's deposition — including graphic questions about her alleged encounter with Mr. Clinton — and affidavits from her supervisors in the Arkansas agency where she worked.

In the brief, Mr. Clinton's lawyers argued that the evidence-gathering phase that ended Jan. 30 showed the case was a "frivolous claim" and should be rejected to protect both the White House and working women. If the case was permitted to go to trial, they wrote, all future presidents "could be subjected to litigation and trial based on similar unsubstantiated claims."

"Such a result ultimately also would redound to the detriment of working women," they added, "for male officials and executives would hesitate before meeting or traveling alone with them for business purposes, out of fear of being sued."

Mr. Clinton filed the motion for summary judgment nearly a month before a court deadline in an effort to speed along the suit and present his side of the story to the public. The case led directly to the crisis endangering Mr. Clinton's presidency when federal investigators began looking into whether he tried to obstruct justice by urging a White House intern, Monica Lewinsky, to lie about an alleged affair if she was asked by Mrs. Jones's lawyers.

"We want to get this case resolved and resolved quickly," said Robert Bennett, a Clinton attorney.

A motion for summary judgment is standard for a defendant after discovery, but the papers telegraphed the legal strategy Mr. Clinton will employ even if he fails and has to go to trial. While the Jones camp has devoted considerable time and energy to finding other women who purportedly had sexual encounters with Mr. Clinton, the president's team put forward the argument that Mrs. Jones not only was unharmed but also was actually happy after her meeting with the governor in a private suite at the Excelsior Hotel in Little Rock during a state economic conference on May 8, 1991.

Employment records cited by Mr. Clinton's lawyers showed that Mrs. Jones, a \$4.95-an-hour document examiner at the Arkansas Industrial Development Commission, received satisfactory reviews and raises totaling 25 percent during her two years on the job. Statements solicited from supervisors denied that Mr. Clinton or his aides told them to treat her badly or even mentioned her at all.

"No one from the governor's office, including Governor Clinton, ever requested that I take any job action with respect to Mrs. Jones, adverse or otherwise," Clydie Pennington, her direct boss, said in a sworn statement.

Mrs. Jones's lawyers have 14 days to respond to the Clinton motion and said Tuesday that they could not discuss it in detail because they had not seen it. But her lead attorney, Donovan Campbell Jr., said Mrs. Jones did suffer on the job.

"She did not obtain the same kind of raises and advancement that similarly situated employees obtained," he said.

Mrs. Jones also has witnesses whose testimony may help lend credence to her story. Two friends have said she told them shortly after the incident that Mr. Clinton had made a pass at her and that she seemed distraught about it.

Because she waited three years after the episode, Mrs. Jones could not file her lawsuit under the standard sexual harassment code, so instead she claimed that her civil rights in the workplace were violated by virtue of sexual harassment, that Mr. Clinton conspired with his bodyguard, a state trooper, to deprive her of her constitutional rights, and that she suffered severe emotional distress from the incident.

To prove her civil rights were abridged, Mrs. Jones would have to show that as a result of refusing an employer's advance that she either was the victim of "quid pro quo" discrimination in which she suffered "tangible job detriment" or was subjected to a hostile or abusive work environment.

Mr. Clinton's lawyers are privately confident that they have disproved any quid pro quo discrimination, though the hostile workplace claim is more open to interpretation.

But given the high profile of the case, U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright may opt for a safe route and leave it to a jury to decide.



Senators Dianne Feinstein, right, and Orrin Hatch, center, along with the actor Paul Reiser, taking part in a Los Angeles news conference where they unveiled the proposed bill to protect people from photographers.

A Bill to Keep the Paparazzi in Check

2 Senators Promote Legislation to Put a Leash on 'Celebrity Stalkers'

By Todd S. Purdum
New York Times Service

LOS ANGELES — A bipartisan pair of high-powered U.S. senators have come to Hollywood to promote legislation intended to curb the abuses of paparazzi who stalk celebrities. The bill would make it a federal crime to chase someone in a way that risks bodily harm in an effort to photograph or record the person for commercial purposes.

"There is a line between legitimate news gathering and invasion of privacy, between snapping a picture of someone in a public place and chasing them to the point where they fear for their safety," said Senator Dianne Feinstein, Democrat of California, who joined Senator Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah and chairman of the Judiciary Committee, at a news conference Tuesday at the office of the Screen Actors Guild here.

Their bill would also change the definition of trespassing, making a photographer's use of a telephoto lens grounds for a civil trespassing suit if the pictures could not otherwise be taken without setting foot on private property.

If photographers chased someone, the bill would impose mandatory prison sentences of at least 20 years in the case of a death, and at least five years in the case of physical injury.

The legislation, in the planning stage

for more than a year, was in response to complaints by celebrities in recent years. Ms. Feinstein said the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, in Paris last summer, stimulated efforts for a law to deal with "an increasingly aggressive cadre of fortune seekers with cameras."

In an attempt to pass constitutional muster, the proposal was narrowly drafted with help from leading constitutional law professors, including Erwin Chemerinsky of the University of Southern California.

"There's no constitutional right to reckless endangerment, and there's no constitutional right to trespass," Mr. Chemerinsky said. "This doesn't do anything to offend the First Amendment."

Mr. Chemerinsky observed that violators would have to be shown to be "persistently physically following or chasing a person in a manner that causes the person to have a reasonable fear of bodily injury" to be found guilty of the criminal endangerment provision.

The provision establishing use of telephoto lenses or remote listening devices as grounds for civil trespassing suits would apply only to "personal or familial activity" on private property that could not otherwise be observed.

Still, the local chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union opposes the bill on the grounds that the offenses it seeks to prevent are already adequately covered by state law.

Health Experts Oppose
Yielding to Tobacco FirmsBy David E. Rosenbaum
New York Times Service

WASHINGTON — Two of the leading American authorities on public health, Dr. C. Everett Koop, the former surgeon general, and David Kessler, a former Food and Drug Administration commissioner, have announced that they opposed giving tobacco companies protection against lawsuits.

A lawyer for the tobacco industry said late Tuesday that without such legal protection, the companies would fight in court any effort by Congress to restrict their advertising or prevent them from marketing cigarettes to teenagers. The competing news conferences, held with Congress in recess this week and lawmakers undecided about how and whether to proceed with anti-smoking legislation, came on the same day that the Journal of the American Medical Association published two studies about the influence of tobacco advertising on youth smoking.

One study found that tobacco companies advertised brands popular with young people in magazines that had a high proportion of teenage readers. The other study concluded that exposure to cigarette advertising was a significant factor in whether teenagers took up smoking.

At their news conference on Capitol Hill, Dr. Koop and Dr. Kessler presented a letter to congressional leaders calling for "fundamental changes in tobacco policy based solely and exclusively on what is good for the public's health without making unnecessary concessions to the tobacco industry."

Their letter was signed by representatives of 20 organizations, including the American Medical Association, the American Cancer Society, American Heart and Lung associations and the National Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids.

Dr. Kessler, dean of the Yale Medical

School, was especially emphatic in his opposition to giving the tobacco companies legal protection. "For the first time, Congress needs to enact tobacco legislation without asking the industry's permission," he said. "There should be no concessions to this industry."

He repeatedly avoided answering whether he would change his mind if such concessions proved to be the only way to obtain restraints on tobacco advertising.

Last year, the tobacco industry signed an accord with the attorneys general of about 40 states in which the industry agreed to restrict advertising and take other steps to limit smoking. The accord is being rewritten by Congress.

In it, the companies agreed, among other things, to stop advertisements featuring cartoon characters or celebrities, to discontinue outdoor advertisements and to restrict advertisements in magazines often read by teenagers to text-only, black-and-white layouts.

In exchange, the agreement prohibits class-action lawsuits, limits claims for punitive damages based on past industry conduct and puts a ceiling on how much the companies would have to pay each year in compensatory damages.

As more and more documents come out showing the extent to which the tobacco companies tried over the years to get young people hooked on smoking, the industry has lost almost all political support in Congress.

"Their effort to target 14-year-olds is frankly reprehensible," Newt Gingrich, the House speaker and a Republican of Georgia, said last week. "I think that they are weaker than they have ever been in this city, and I think that there is virtually no sentiment for in any way listening favorably to the tobacco companies."

But without protection against lawsuits, said Meyer Koplow, a lawyer who represents the industry, the companies would never voluntarily agree to restrict their advertising.

Away From Politics

• The U.S. government will soon begin replacing millions of Border Crossing Cards with state-of-the-art documents that use compact-disk technology to store information for crossing of the Mexican border. The replacements, called "laser visa" cards, will have security features intended to make them much more difficult to counterfeit. The cards are issued only to Mexicans. (WP)

• The Newark Police Department is paying gun owners to turn in their weapons, and it has collected 213 firearms at a cost of \$15,725. (NYT)

• Mairead Corrigan Macguire, the 1976 Nobel Peace Prize winner, was arrested and jailed after refusing to leave a federal prison in a show of support for a jailed peace activist, Philip Berrigan. Ms. Macguire visited Mr. Berrigan on Monday at the Petersburg Federal Correctional Institution in Virginia, where he is serving a two-year sentence for vandalizing a navy destroyer. When she refused to leave, prison officials and FBI agents took her to the city jail and held her on a charge of trespassing. Judge Karen Williams of U.S. District Court dismissed the charge and freed Ms. Macguire. (AP)

• A federal judge in Denver has scheduled a March 25 hearing to decide what guidelines he will follow in sentencing Terry Nichols for the Oklahoma City bombing. Mr. Nichols says he should serve four to six years in prison, the maximum for the manslaughter conviction, while prosecutors say he should spend the rest of his life in prison for his conspiracy conviction. (AP)

POLITICAL NOTES

Starr Wants Notes

WASHINGTON — Kenneth Starr, the Whitewater prosecutor, wants the Supreme Court to clear the way for him to get notes from a meeting that Vincent Foster, the late White House aide to President Bill Clinton, had with a lawyer nine days before Mr. Foster's suicide in 1993.

Mr. Starr wants to determine whether presidential aides lied about whether Hillary Rodham Clinton had a role in a White House purge of its travel office staff. She has said she had no role.

Mr. Foster's conversation with the lawyer, Jim Hamilton, focused on those firings, but Mr. Hamilton is exercising an attorney-client privilege against disclosure. Last month he asked the Supreme Court to help him keep three pages of notes out of Mr. Starr's hands.

In a response filed Tuesday, the prosecutor argued that no such privilege of confidentiality exists once a client dies. And he told the justices that granting Mr. Hamilton's appeal will only "delay an important grand jury investigation which touches on vital matters of public concern." (AP)

Back to the Basics

WASHINGTON — The Christian Coalition, buoyed by its victory against gay civil rights legislation in Maine, is planning a return to the basics: church recruiting and social issues.

After private meetings with 65 state and local leaders last weekend, the conservative grass-roots group decided that the best way to raise money and increase its electoral clout is by talking to churchgoers about such subjects as abortion, gay rights, pornography and gambling.

The Families 2000 strategy calls for recruiting 100,000 church leaders by November 2000. The coalition also plans to distribute 45 million voter guides during this year's congressional elections.

"Our goal in all of this is to ensure that local, state and federal officials of both parties be held more accountable on pro-family issues," said the coalition's executive director, Randy Tate.

During the ballot fight in Maine, the group identified 77,000 new supporters through 900 churches in the state.

That led not only to repeal of the anti-discrimination law, but also to the prospect of new donors filling the coalition's depleted coffers. Mr. Tate said. (WP)

Quote/Unquote

Lucianne Goldberg, a New York book agent and friend of Linda Tripp on why Ms. Tripp provided prosecutors with recordings of conversations with Monica Lewinsky: "She panicked and she wanted immunity, and she had to have a lawyer now who knew how to get her immunity on the tapes." (AP)

U.S. Charges Trio
As Spies for East

Los Angeles Times Service

WASHINGTON — A former Pentagon lawyer, her union-representative husband and a former U.S. Army paratrooper have been indicted on charges of conspiring to spy for East Germany, the Soviet Union, the Russian Federation and South Africa.

The indictments returned Tuesday by a federal grand jury in Alexandria, Virginia, indicated that the defendants, arrested in an FBI sting operation last October, had rejected the opportunity of bargaining to lesser charges, legal sources said.

Attorneys for two of the defendants denied the allegations and said they would attack the legality of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

The defendants are James Michael Clark, 49, a former army paralegal; Theresa Maria Squillacote, 40, a former senior staff attorney for a deputy undersecretary of defense, and her husband, Kurt Alan Stand, 43, a former regional representative of the International Union of Food, Agricultural, Hotel, Restaurant, Catering, Tobacco and Allied Workers' Associations.

AMERICAN
TOPICSAmong Blacks, Washington
Ranks as the Top Surname

When Gregory Washington met Craig Washington, he saw something he had never observed in someone with his last name: white skin. "I thought he was going to be black," said Gregory, an African-American, of his first meeting with a new co-worker at a company in Torrance, California. "I told him he was the first white Washington I'd ever seen. I joked that we must be brothers."

Gregory's assumption was not ill-founded, reports the Los Angeles Times. Ninety-three percent of Americans with the last name Washington are black, according to the Census Bureau, which says that makes it the highest concentration of black people per surname.

But genealogists and historians, not to mention the 116,000 black Washingtons, know frustratingly little about the ironic prevalence among blacks of the surname made famous

by George Washington, a founder of the nation but also a plantation slaveholder.

After the Civil War, when the passage of the 13th Amendment freed 4 million slaves, most had been barred by their owners from having last names. Many picked the surnames of the former presidents Jefferson and Jackson. Washington also became a popular choice.

Some historians believed that the freedmen, who had deliberately been kept uneducated, were unaware that George Washington had owned 130 slaves, but did know he was the founder of the Union that crushed the slave-holding Confederacy. They may also have known that he set his slaves free upon his death. Other historians say the name was picked as a protest.

In light of allegations that Thomas Jefferson sired children both white and black, it should be said that the same suspicions do not surround George Washington. He may have been the father of the country, but that was all. Many historians believe he was sterile.

Short Takes

Wang Jian, 28, became something of a hero in New York's

Chinatown when he stood on the steps of City Hall recently and set off a string of firecrackers, only to be arrested on four misdemeanor charges.

The city had banned the use of firecrackers during the Chinese New Year. But many Chinese-Americans say firecrackers are central to the rituals of the celebration. When Mr. Wang emerged from a police station, people stood in line to shake his hand. The city stands by the ban, citing a risk of injury or even death. In Chinatown, people say the small firecrackers commonly used are relatively safe.

Is it the politicians? The lawyers, who occupy a 80-page section of the Yellow Pages? Lovers making late-night phone calls? Whatever the reason, residents of the District of Columbia spend more time than those of any of the 50 states speaking on the telephone each year. Washington residents spend an average 435 hours a year with phone to ear, compared with 249 in Maryland, the next highest. At the other end of the spectrum are the residents of Iowa, South Dakota and the notoriously reticent people of Maine, all of whom spend less than 150 hours a year on the line.

Brian Knowlton

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Where Caesar landed, 46 B.C.
- Huge
- Wavered
- Requires more than one person, in a saying
- Pro
- Ask, as for a loan
- Final holder
- Chap
- Equivoque
- Occupancy
- Like best
- Part of an exchange
- Hardly a libertine
- Ceremonial occasion
- Average
- A Turner
- Match game?
- French chef's mushroom
- Torrent
- Photographer's setup
- They're heard in songs
- Giant of a Giant
- Not a hog
- Suffix with pay
- Continental money
- Atmosphere: Prefix
- Tower site
- First Prefix
- Medit. country
- Classic Jolson hit
- Gains control, in a way
- Saliva
- Drives
- The end, in Revelation
- Does
- Lovely young woman
- Throws a party for
- A goner
- "The Nazarene" writer
- One in a romper room
- Full assemblies
- TD's, e.g.
- Magnon
- Home of Hickam Air Force Base
- Leup
- Old sports-caster win and others
- Dense fog
- Karen of "Little House on the Prairie"
- More wary
- Skip up
- Darts
- Non-P.C. suffix
- Longfellow's "The Bell of"
- Assignment
- Mideast dry measure
- days gone by? Riley
- The Beatles' "Let —"
- It can make a molehill out of a mountain
- Feedbox grain
- Sliding path

DOWN

- Lawyer: Abbr.
- Showcase
- What lost computer data may need to be
- Detail
- These, in Thiers
- Film with the Oscar-winning song "Best That You Can Do"
- Kind of court
- An Aleutian
- Depot
- Place
- Some investments, for short
- City with a view of Santa Cruz
- Enters, but just barely
- Kind of bed

Solution to Puzzle of Feb. 18

ADMAN BLAH TRAM
HEATY LAJO AUTO
LEVYUWANTOKING
STOP ASA STOWS
AXE ETHANE
HOUOV FLUE
ASABO SERP GIZE
THEVALUEOFMONEY
GADIS GILLY ALKES
BONG MOTES
CANNING DAY
NIRVITY EAT ALEX
SIVYBORROW SOME
ACAT ISNT HEMIN
DENY NASH OCALA

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Is the Internet a threat
or a boon to telephone
companies?

Don't miss the sixth in a series of sponsored pages in the IHT on electronic business.

February 25

BUSINESS TO e-BUSINESS:
TELECOMMUNICATIONS

If you missed the previous page, "Business to e-Business: Entrepreneur Communications," fax or e-mail your mailing address for a free reprint. Fax: +33 1 41 43 92 15 / E-Mail: supplements@iht.com

Herald Tribune
THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

MIDEAST

At the Pentagon, Infighting Over Iraq Role of the B-2

By John Mintz
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — The B-2 bomber, at \$2 billion a copy, is the most expensive airplane ever built and perhaps history's most intimidating combat aircraft. It is ready to fly in any air war against Iraq, but the U.S. military has revealed no plans for that. And therein lies a mystery that may reveal as much about internal Pentagon politics and budgetary tactics as military strategy, military and defense industry officials say.

Pentagon officials who favor the B-2's deployment in the Gulf say some military officers are afraid that if the airplane does well, its success could reopen discussion about building more than the 21 B-2s on order, threatening billions destined for the air force's prized project of today, the F-22 fighter. A poor performance, on the other hand, could be a humiliating and costly failure.

"If it does badly, and it crashes, you'd have a \$2 billion smoking hole in the desert, which could be a bit embarrassing," an air force official said.

"Or if it does beautifully, there would be tremendous pressure to build more B-2s, and that undoubtedly would in-

Some Fear Bomber Will Work Too Well, Others See '\$2 Billion Hole in the Desert'

fringe on the budgets of other air force airplanes that we want to build."

The air force officially denies that such considerations have a role in the decision whether to deploy the colossal black, bat-winged aircraft. The service's formal position is that "the B-2 has been declared operational and is available to the war fighters should it be called upon," said Captain Leo Devine, a spokesman for the service.

But inside the air force and the Pentagon where war plans are drawn, a bitter debate is raging about the B-2's deployment, military officials said.

Its backers say the B-2 is a perfect weapon for an air war in which avoiding risks to pilots is a top concern, since the "stealthy" B-2 evades radar and stands little chance of being shot down. It can carry 16 2,000-pound bombs, or eight 5,000-pound bombs that can be used for "bunker-busting" of underground compounds.

Moreover, because any B-2 attack probably would involve a 36-hour

round-trip flight from its home at Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri, its use would not impose a burden on Gulf allies skittish about allowing U.S. jets to carry out bombing raids that might inflame other Arab countries.

But the B-2 continues to inspire more skepticism than awe among other Pentagon officials.

Military planners are highly risk-averse, and vastly prefer to choose for dangerous missions aircraft that have been proved in war, military officials said. Nine years after its inaugural flight, the B-2 has never flown in combat. There are also some minor lingering questions about the reliability of stealth characteristics of the B-2's most recently upgraded version.

Two years ago the B-2's radar-absorbing skin peeled back in the rain, and officials say that problem has been repaired in the new model.

The B-2's proponents inside and outside the air force cite a number of deeper reasons why they believe the

plane is not in the U.S. order of battle. They said that its success would imperil financing for other projects, chiefly the \$70 billion F-22 fighter program, the air force's top priority.

"The B-2 threatens the F-22 crown jewel," said one pro-B-2 air force targeting expert. "There are folks at senior levels in the air force who are pushing for the B-2," including leaders of the service's Air Combat Command and air war planners at the U.S. Central Command, which is in charge of the attack, an air force general said.

Asked if the B-2's \$2 billion price makes it too risky to use, he replied, "We bought the thing. If you're not going to risk using them, send them to Davis-Monthan and make sure nothing ever happens to them." Davis-Monthan is an air force base in Arizona, where decommissioned warplanes are stored.

"The B-2 is absolutely perfect for this mission," added another air force general, who said he believes senior Defense Department and National Security Council officials have argued against its use because "if you demonstrate its great capabilities, it would reopen their decision to terminate the buy" at 21 aircraft. Eighteen have been built.

IRAQ: Annan Encouraged

Continued from Page 1

the message coming from Baghdad that they are prepared to engage me constructively to find a solution."

He offered no details beyond saying that "obviously this is not going to be an easy mission."

Mr. Annan said that he would not be leaving for Iraq if he did not hope that his mission would succeed. "I would have saved the organization some money" otherwise, the secretary-general said.

He expressed satisfaction that what he termed the unanimity of the Security Council had been re-established. That was a reference to the consensus that was reached Tuesday among the five permanent members on oral guidelines for Mr. Annan to take to his meetings with the Iraqis.

The United States and Britain have insisted that no limits be put on the weapons inspectors of the UN Special Commission, known as Unscow, and that their authority not be diluted or limited.

After four meetings in less than a week, China, France and Russia accepted this in some form.

Iraq, which closed eight so-called presidential sites to inspectors as symbols of its national sovereignty, earlier floated a compromise through the Russians that the compounds could be searched once during a limited 60-day period, provided that the searches were carried out not by the Unscow teams, but by diplomats and experts who would report directly to the secretary-general. Washington and London rejected this proposal as a ploy to circumvent the inspectors most familiar with Iraq's clandestine programs to develop prohibited chemical and biological weapons.

The formula that Mr. Annan is taking to Baghdad would allow the diplomats and other experts to go along, but only as observers, when Unscow inspectors enter the presidential residences. The formula also says that such searches will not be curtailed.

The United States made it clear that it would challenge any agreement with Iraq that deviated from the principles of unrestricted access to all sites, including the presidential sites, or that compromised the integrity of the UN inspection program.

"I did not ask for a mandate," Mr. Annan said. "Right from the beginning, I was acting on the basis of the secretary-general's authority and my desire to use my good offices."

But an American official said the collective advice given to Mr. Annan was consistent with the Clinton administration's position that Baghdad must comply with all its promises made in the Security Council resolution that ended the Gulf War in 1991.

The British representative, John Weston, said that he was very pleased with consensus reached by the five permanent members on what to tell Mr. Annan.

"We know that he is a very senior person in this organization who was elected by us all," Mr. Weston said, "and we have great confidence in his judgment."

Discussing the proposal to allow observers to accompany the UN inspectors, a British official said: "So long as Unscow gets in, we don't mind a few men in suits going along for the ride."

The United States and Britain decided that they would not object to Mr. Annan's going to Baghdad as long as he recognizes that there are "red lines" that Washington and London are unwilling to see crossed.

One is that no limits can be set on the duration or scope of the inspections, which Baghdad has tried to restrict.

The American and British position has been that, far from becoming more flexible, as Mr. Annan has urged, the two powers are prepared to undertake military strikes unless Iraq backs down and that it is incumbent on the countries that oppose military action to come up with a workable alternative.

when Iraq is alleged to have used chemical weapons — including mustard gas and nerve agents — during its war against Iran or on its own Kurdish minority.

The report said Iraq had an active missile program before the 1991 Gulf War, including its purchase of 819 Scud missiles from Russia and its efforts to modify the missile's warhead and extend its range.

"Discrepancies in Iraqi accounting suggest that Baghdad could still have a small force of Scud-type missiles and an undetermined number of warheads and launchers," it added.

What little political opposition there is comes mainly from "old Labor" members of Parliament who stand by pacifist principles that the "New Labor" party of Mr. Blair has largely set aside. Some of them had their say in the House of Commons debate Tuesday.

"Every member of Parliament tonight who votes for the government motion will be consciously and deliberately accepting responsibility for the deaths of innocent people if the war begins, as I fear it will," said Tony Benn, a Labor member.

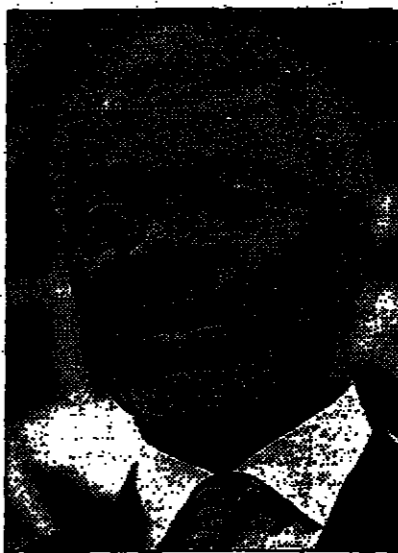
The government has relied largely on media coverage of House of Commons speeches and of British forces in the Gulf region to build its case with the public.

The Times of London contended Tuesday that the public needs clear talk on potential dangers. "Outside Iraq, public opinion has not been readied for the risk, however small, of Iraqi retaliation with toxins or nerve gas so potent that tiny quantities could kill thousands," it said.

Religious leaders have voiced some of the most pointed opposition. Ten bishops of the Church of England, writing to the Independent newspaper last week, expressed fear of "large-scale civilian casualties" and new distrust of the West in the Muslim world if airstrikes were launched against Iraq.

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Kofi Annan discussing in New York his hopes for his mission to Baghdad.

CNN Coproduction With White House Riles Competitors

Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Has it come to this: American preparations for war as a network production?

That is the view of some of CNN's competitors as the cable network staged a town meeting Wednesday with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, Defense Secretary William Cohen and the national security adviser, Samuel Berger. It was a CNN exclusive from start to finish; no other national television outlet could broadcast from the Ohio State University gathering.

Moreover, television stations were limited to two minutes of excerpts from the 90-minute forum, and any highlights had to bear the CNN logo.

"It certainly reeks of favoritism," said Kim Hume, Washington bureau chief of Fox News. "It's just odd that the government would go to CNN and ask them to broadcast a town meeting, because CNN has limited reach. It seems they look at CNN as an adjunct of the Voice of America or something."

"I'd think in an extraordinary situation like this that they would want as broad an audience as possible," said Bruce Drake, managing editor for news at National Public Radio. "To come to some sort of exclusive arrangement with one network boggles my mind. Given the degree of magnitude here — preparing the nation for military action and the possibility of lives lost — you don't play these kind of games."

Asked about the CNN arrangement, the White House spokesman, Michael McCurry, said that, as on previous occasions, the administration "worked with one network to figure out how we could get as large an audience, international and domestic, for this particular event." Another factor, he said, is that President Saddam Hussein of Iraq and his aides are known to watch CNN.

Frank Sesno, CNN's Washington bureau chief, said a White House official sounded him out last week about having the network host a town meeting "in the heartland" about the Iraqi situation. He said the administration suggested holding it at Ohio State.

The session featured both audience questions and viewer calls for the three members of the U.S. administration's national security team, who were attempting to make a public case for possible U.S. air strikes against Baghdad in the continuing standoff over restrictions on United Nations weapons inspectors.

"Showdown with Iraq: An International Town Meeting," which aired on CNN at 2 P.M. eastern standard time (1900 GMT) on Wednesday, was anchored by Bernard Shaw and Judy Woodruff. The special was shown in CNN markets around the world.

"This is our event, and we're sorry that others don't like it, but that's the way it goes," Mr. Sesno said.

OHIO: Officials Heckled

Continued from Page 1

flict — an option repeatedly rejected by Mr. Cohen during the broadcast.

Hecklers interrupted the top officials several times, at one point stopping Mrs. Albright from talking for several minutes. The Associated Press reported from Columbus, Ohio.

"Could you please tell these people, I'd be very happy to talk with them when this is over," Mrs. Albright said.

To illustrate President Saddam Hussein's history of using weapons of mass destruction, Mr. Cohen showed the audience a picture of an Iraqi woman holding a dead child in her arms. He said they had been gassed by Mr. Saddam's forces. He described the picture as "Madonna and child, Saddam Hussein-style."

Mr. Berger said the United States was seeking to protect the world's long-term interests in limiting the spread of weapons of mass destruction.

"In the 21st century, the community of nations may see more and more of this very kind of threat that Iraq poses now, the rogue state," Mr. Berger said, adding: "If we fail to respond, Saddam and all those who follow will believe that they can threaten the security of a vital region with impunity. But if we act now as one, we will send a clear message to would-be tyrants and terrorists."

Israelis Display Doubts Over Punishing Saddam

Many Fear U.S. Might Emerge Diminished

By Lee Hockstader
Washington Post Service

JERUSALEM — President Saddam Hussein of Iraq, having rained 39 Scud missiles onto this country during the Gulf War in 1991, takes pride of place among Israel's most despised enemies.

Yet, for some Israelis, including those who have served in top ranks in the country's military and intelligence establishments, the conviction that Mr. Saddam should be punished harshly for transgressions past and present is tempered by nagging doubts.

Few believe U.S. air raids alone would do lasting damage to Iraq's ability and perhaps even to its apparent determination to develop horrifying weapons. Almost no one thinks Mr. Saddam's grip on power would be pried loose by American bombs and missiles alone. And in interviews over the last few days, a number of knowledgeable Israelis, including gung-ho supporters of tough American action, acknowledged that it is far from guaranteed that Washington would emerge perceived as the winner from such a conflict.

In a country that itself has attacked Iraq, and in which there is near unanimity in the view that President George Bush erred by not sending U.S. troops into Baghdad in 1991, the surprise is not that there is substantial support for fresh American raids. It is the extent to which Israelis express doubt that they would do any good and fear that they could make matters worse in the Middle East.

"Bombing could be counterproductive," said a high-ranking Israeli government strategist, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"If you look back at Arab history, most of the military defeats suffered by Arabs were turned into political victories," he said, adding that the fact Mr. Saddam "withstood the 1991 attack and could still swim in the waters of the Euphrates proves that he withstood the power of the only superpower without any backing from any other source — that was his victory. And the fact that his people are suffering doesn't mean a thing to him. His survival, together with an Arab political coalition against the United States, might not bode well for the stability of the Middle East."

Shlomo Gazit, a retired general who once ran military intelligence, said he doubted U.S. intelligence on Iraq's weapons-making facilities was wholly reliable and up-to-date or that air attacks would eliminate Mr. Saddam's arsenal and capacity to make new armaments. He said attacking Iraq to punish Mr. Saddam might be worth it, but only if Washington has the stomach for a sustained, devastating — and televised — air campaign.

"I'm very doubtful about your ability to do it," Mr. Gazit said. "It requires a decision that I'm doubtful Washington will take: Are you really prepared to inflict casualties on human beings to try to destroy several divisions of the Republican Guard — and this can be done

— by American air power? My assumption is that the answer is no. Public opinion will not allow you, and the political system will not allow you."

He added: "The No. 1 question is, Will the U.S. come out of this confrontation as the winning side or the losing side? If it is the losing side it will be very bad for the peace process and very bad for the role the U.S. plays as an honest broker and mediator in the peace process. If it wins, then it can really enhance the peace process. But '91 is not '98, and overall conditions and considerations and circumstances are so different that you can't in any way rely on" winning.

What is striking is that Israelis who argue for an American attack, and that seems to be the majority view, do so only in negative terms.

Certainly, even the most devastating air raids might accomplish little, they say, and could even make matters worse in the region. But to back off and do nothing would be a disaster, signaling American impotence in the Middle East, undercutting Washington's role as mediator of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process and granting carte blanche to Israel's enemies in the region. That, they say, would be bad for Israel.

"Frankly, if you don't get to Saddam and hold his throat and point a gun at his head," the chances he will give up his weapons of mass destruction "are very slim," said an Israeli who declined to be identified. But if the Americans "back off and decide not to act, the feeling in the Arab world is going to be that 'what we thought for quite a while about the American posture in the Middle East is true. The Americans are weak. They might be a superpower, but they are weak.'"

In Israel, the focus in the media and public debate has been on whether a U.S. attack on Iraq would prompt Mr. Saddam to launch retaliatory strikes against Israel, as he did with the Scud missiles in 1991. Although Israeli officials regard the probability of such an attack as extremely low, they have found themselves discussing it endlessly to soothe a jittery public.

That spotlight on the immediate security risk to Israel has obscured the broader implications of a U.S. attack on



Defense Minister Sheikh Ali al Sabah as Salim al Sabah of Kuwait among Kuwaiti soldiers during a visit Wednesday to the border with Iraq.

Iraq, which have gone largely unremarked in public.

Already the crisis has contributed to the stalemate in the peace process by distracting official Washington's attention. It also has sparked pro-Iraqi demonstrations among Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, which in turn have antagonized Jews.

There is speculation that a new conflict with Iraq could prompt Israel to crack down on Palestinians' freedom of movement in the occupied territories and perhaps to impose a curfew. That, in turn, could push Palestinian frustrations with the frozen peace process to the breaking point.

On the other hand, some Israeli strategists say a powerful U.S. attack could help the cause of peace in the Middle East by leaving Iraq weakened,

Palestinians cowed and a more confident and secure Israel disposed to make fresh concessions for Middle East peace.

But several high-ranking former military officials said they are worried that Israel's eagerness to see punishment meted out to an implacable foe is clouding analysis of the probable outcome of a new Gulf War.

Retired General Ephraim Sneh, a Labor Party legislator, said any attack on Iraq that leaves Mr. Saddam in power is a waste of time and could underline fading American influence in the Middle East. Already, he said, Washington's attempts to revive the stalled peace process have come to naught.

"If he stays in power, we must prepare for the next surprise — a year from now, five years from now, 10 years from now," Mr. Sneh said.

White House Says Iraq Still Has a Force of Scud-Type Missiles

Reuters

WASHINGTON — Iraq has Scud-type missiles and a small stockpile of chemical and biological weapons, with the capability to make more quickly, the White House said in a document based on U.S. intelligence data.

The 17-page document, which had no markings to show who prepared it, was released Tuesday, shortly after President Bill Clinton warned Iraq to permit inspections of suspected sites of weapons of mass destruction or face a military strike.

"Enough production components and

data remain hidden and enough expertise has been retained or developed to enable Iraq to resume development and production" of weapons of mass destruction, the document said, citing the views of unidentified world "experts."

"They believe Iraq maintains a small force of Scud-type missiles, a small stockpile of chemical and biological munitions and the capability to quickly resurrect biological and chemical weapons production," the paper added.

A U.S. official declined to say who wrote the report, but said it was based on U.S. intelligence data.

It said Iraq had withheld information on its biological weapons program, which included making 22,457 gallons (85,337 liters) of anthrax, 100,396 gallons of botulinum toxin and 591 gallons of aflatoxin.

The document said that the biological weapons came to light after the 1995 defection of Hussein Kamel, President Saddam Hussein's son-in-law and allegedly a key player in Iraq's weapons programs. He was put to death on his return to Iraq.

The document lists 10 occasions between August 1983 and March 1988

when Iraq is alleged to have used chemical weapons — including mustard gas and nerve agents — during its war against Iran or on its own Kurdish minority.

The report said Iraq had an active missile program before the 1991 Gulf War, including its purchase of 819 Scud missiles from Russia and its efforts to modify the missile's warhead and extend its range.

"Discrepancies in Iraqi accounting suggest that Baghdad could still have a small force of Scud-type missiles and an undetermined number of warheads and launchers," it added.

What little political opposition there is comes mainly from "old Labor" members of Parliament who stand by pacifist principles that the "New Labor" party of Mr. Blair has largely set aside. Some of them had their say in the House of Commons debate Tuesday.

"Every member of Parliament tonight who votes for the government motion will be consciously and deliberately accepting responsibility for the deaths of innocent people if the war begins, as I fear it will," said Tony Benn, a Labor member.

The government has relied largely on media coverage of House of Commons speeches and of British forces in the Gulf region to build its case with the public.

The Times of London contended Tuesday that the public needs clear talk on potential dangers. "Outside Iraq, public opinion has not been readied for the risk, however small, of Iraqi retaliation with toxins or nerve gas so potent that tiny quantities could kill thousands," it said.

Religious leaders have voiced some of the most pointed opposition. Ten bishops of the Church of England, writing to the Independent newspaper last week, expressed fear of "large-scale civilian casualties" and new distrust of the West in the Muslim world if airstrikes were launched against Iraq.

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Blair Gets Support for Policy on Iraq as Parliament Backs Strikes

By John Burgess
Washington Post Service

LONDON — Ten Anglican bishops have warned of civilian deaths if bombs fall on Iraq, and about 100 demonstrators have staged a sit-down protest on a London street to condemn the use of military force.

British newspapers have published questioning editorials, while pacifist politicians have made critical comments.

But aside from these scattered expressions of opposition, Prime Minister Tony Blair has met little resistance as he has put Britain squarely on course for an attack on Iraq if its leader, Saddam Hussein, does not back down and grant United Nations inspectors access to suspected weapons production sites. In cooperation with the United States, Britain has moved warplanes and an aircraft carrier to the Gulf region to be ready to strike if the order comes.

On Tuesday night, Mr. Blair got an official mandate to proceed. By a vote of 493 to 25, the House of Commons approved a resolution authorizing the government to "use all necessary means" to resolve the crisis over Iraq's weapons program.

"Letting Saddam off, doing nothing, backing

off, setting for some convenient fudge in the face of Saddam's defiance — these are options too dangerous to contemplate," Defense Secretary George Robertson told the House during a seven-hour debate on Iraq policy that preceded the vote.

In times like this, British gut reaction is to support the government, said Robert Worcester, chairman of Market and Opinion Research International, a polling organization. He called this tendency "a holdover from the 19th-century imperial destiny" when Britain put troops into countless conflicts small and large.

In recent times, British armed forces have reinforced this backing by besting the enemy in their foreign missions, said Timothy Garden, a retired Royal Air Force marshal who now heads the Royal Institute of International Affairs, a research center in London. "We don't have a Vietnam," he said.

Still, there is no great enthusiasm here for taking on Mr. Saddam. Although a few tabloid newspapers have sounded a jingoistic chord — "Take Out Saddam" read a front-page headline in the Sun, reporting a Gulf War veteran's call to assassinate the Iraqi president — the public seems more resigned than eager.

According to a survey published last week by the Guardian newspaper and the polling organization ICM, 56 percent of the British public would support military action against Iraq, while 32 percent would oppose it. The rest were undecided.

In contrast, the Gulf War and the 1982 Falklands War won approval by up to 80 percent of the public. To many analysts, the reason is that the goals were clearer and more popular. The Gulf War was launched to liberate Kuwait, the Falklands conflict to take back British islands seized by Argentina.

But since the start of the crisis over Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programs, Britain has joined the United States wholeheartedly. Mr. Blair dispatched to the Gulf the Invincible, an aircraft carrier with 13 Sea Harrier jump-jets aboard. Eight Tornado fighter-bombers have flown to a base in Kuwait. In addition, Britain has two squadrons of Tornados in Saudi Arabia.

Two weeks ago, British officials called press briefings to outline the size of Iraq's illegal arsenal. On Tuesday, the Defense Ministry released diagrams of the "presidential sites" that Iraq has declared off-limits to UN weapons inspectors, showing that one is so large it could overlay much of London. Otherwise,

the government has relied largely on media coverage of House of Commons speeches and of British forces in the Gulf region to build its case with the public.

The Times of London contended Tuesday that the public needs clear talk on potential dangers. "Outside Iraq, public opinion has not been readied for the risk, however small, of Iraqi retaliation with toxins or nerve gas so potent that tiny quantities could kill thousands," it said.

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A Step Behind Suharto, Is He Devil or Angel?

Whichever, Habibie Arouses Intense Feelings

By Keith Richburg
Washington Post Service

JAKARTA — B. J. Habibie is a visionary, an ardent economic nationalist and Muslim intellectual, inspiring millions with his grand plan to transform Indonesia into a leader of industry and high technology for the next century.

B. J. Habibie is a dangerous eccentric who uses his proximity to an aging president to push his bizarre economic theories and a raft of grandiose but ill-conceived plans that are a drain on the national treasury.

Those two opposing views may both sound extreme, but they neatly summarize the intense reaction that Mr. Habibie's name elicits from his many supporters in Indonesia and his equally sizable number of detractors.

"Habibie is a very divisive presence, not only in society, but also within the military," said an Asian diplomat with long experience here. For years, the critics have been able to dismiss Mr. Habibie, Indonesia's research and technology minister, as a bit of an oddball and a maverick, although an influential one with the ear of President Suharto.

But now Mr. Habibie, 61, stands on the verge of becoming Indonesia's next vice president and the country's next

president if Mr. Suharto, at 76, is unable to complete his next five-year term.

On Wednesday, Mr. Habibie moved a step closer to the vice presidential post that eluded him in 1993. Indonesia's powerful armed forces officially threw their support behind Mr. Habibie for vice president when the outgoing commander, General Feisal Tanjung, praised him as "the best figure to accompany Suharto in carrying out the duties of the nation and the state for the next five years."

The armed forces' support was considered crucial, because they enjoy a constitutionally enshrined role in politics and are considered the country's most cohesive national institution and the final arbiter of power. Mr. Habibie, despite his many qualifications in academics, private business and various government posts, has never worn a uniform — leaving a large question mark over his level of support in the ranks.

A Western diplomat here said the main unspoken rule in Indonesia was that anyone in a top leadership position, meaning president or vice president, had to meet three criteria: be Muslim, from the military and from Java, the most populous of the islands in the Indonesian archipelago. Mr. Habibie, he noted, fulfills two out of three.



B.J. Habibie, left, with President Suharto of Indonesia.

General Feisal, in endorsing Mr. Habibie, said his lack of a military background was not a factor.

"I think Minister Habibie is a shoo-in now," said Eugene Galbraith, head of research in Hong Kong for ABN AMRO Asia Ltd., who spent 16 years living in Indonesia and is considered an expert on the country. "It's a terrible decision. He's kind of a proven spendthrift. He's someone who doesn't have very good political instincts in terms of forging coalitions and building a consensus."

Other disagreed. "I think he's been

given an unfair reading," said Dewi Fortuna Anwar, a political scientist with Indonesia's Institute of Social Sciences and an admitted Habibie fan. "I think a lot of the younger generation will support him because of his vision. He does have the vision, and I think he does excite a lot of people in that way."

Speaking of Mr. Habibie's grand plans for an Indonesian aircraft and shipbuilding industry, Miss Anwar said, "I'm Indonesian and I don't want people to say, 'Oh, you export cheap textiles and shoes.' You can have a vision."

One of Mr. Habibie's more controversial moves was to use his influence with Mr. Suharto to force the military to purchase some components from the "strategic industries" that Mr. Habibie controls. That perceived interference in the armed forces' procurement process was believed to have earned him the permanent antagonism of key generals.

In addition, in 1990 Mr. Suharto placed him at the head of a new grouping called the Indonesian Association of Muslim Intellectuals. The group has given the minister a broad political base of support for his often-unconventional economic theories.

"There's an ideological element to it," said an Asian diplomat, explaining the core of Mr. Habibie's support and the unlikely and sometimes disparate coalition of Islamists and urban intellectuals who back him.

He said that many indigenous Indonesians believe in special government breaks for their businesses, to counter the perceived special privileges enjoyed by the country's ethnic Chinese minority, who control 70 percent of private wealth here. "They want to put the Chinese in their place," the diplomat said.

In 2 Petitions, Dissidents Ask More Liberties From Beijing

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BELTING — Chinese dissidents have petitioned the national legislature to institute democratic reforms, investigate the 1989 crackdown on protests and allow independent trade unions, human rights groups said Wednesday.

Seven dissidents in the eastern province of Zhejiang sent a letter to the National People's Congress on Tuesday, seeking guarantees for freedoms of speech and assembly, the Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said.

The letter added that Prime Minister Li Peng, who is finishing his second and last term in office, should not be named the congress chairman at the legislature's annual session next month because of his support for the military attack on protesters around Tiananmen Square in 1989.

Mr. Li's "hands were stained with the fresh blood of heroes," said the appeal. A copy was made public by the Information Center, which is based in Hong Kong. The petition also urged that a committee investigate the crackdown.

The seven signers — mostly workers and intellectuals from Hangzhou, southwest of Shanghai — have served prison sentences for their involvement in the protest nine years ago and other dissident activities.

In another petition, Wang Hongxue, an activist from Anhui Province, urged legislators to pass laws to protect civil liberties, wipe out corruption and make the government more accountable to the people, said Human Rights in China, an organization in New York.

The 38-year-old hospital worker also sought the right to establish independent trade unions, as stipulated in a United Nations treaty on human rights that China signed last year.

Parliament is scheduled to open its annual session on March 5 and is expected to elect Mr. Li to replace Qiao Shi as head of the lawmaking body.

The petition also urged the authorities to show tolerance by allowing exiled dissidents to return home, lifting a ban on new political parties and newspapers and guaranteeing freedom of speech and press freedom.

The authorities have forced a growing number of dissidents into exile since last year in the hope that the activists would fade away. (AP, Reuters)

BRIEFLY

Ranariddh Plans Return to Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — Prince Norodom Ranariddh, the deposed first prime minister, will return to Cambodia next month to help his political party prepare for elections, the prince's personal representative said Wednesday.

Prince Ranariddh, who is now in exile, has been prevented from returning to Cambodia for a variety of reasons, including a wish to pursue diplomatic channels outside the country, said Lu Layseng, the prince's aide.

Hun Sen deposed Prince Ranariddh as his co-prime minister following two days of fierce fighting in early July. Mr. Hun Sen voiced support Tuesday for a Japanese initiative that has received wide international backing to allow for Prince Ranariddh's return.

The plan calls for Prince Ranariddh to cut all ties with the Khmer Rouge guerrilla movement; immediate implementation of a ceasefire between battling forces in northwestern Cambodia; a pardon if the prince is convicted of the charges against him, and a guarantee for his safe return to participate in the elections. (AP)

Manila Defections

MANILA — At least eight congressmen and two governors have defected from the governing party as it faces a national election campaign, but its presidential candidate said Wednesday that new recruits would make up for the losses.

But some analysts expect further defections from the Lakas-NUCD party because its presidential candidate, the House speaker Jose de Venecia, trails the opposition candidate, Joseph Estrada, in popularity polls. (AP)

India State Re-Votes

GUWAHATI, India — India's northeastern state of Assam, hit by separatist violence in national elections this week, began repeat polling in parts of the province on Wednesday.

Election officials said the voting in nine polling stations spread across three parliamentary constituencies began smoothly. (Reuters)

Embassies in Jakarta Warn Nationals

Agence France-Presse

JAKARTA — Embassies in Jakarta warned their nationals Wednesday to be on guard against unrest in Indonesia.

The U.S. Embassy offered the strongest advice to its citizens, cautioning them against intercity travel by road and urging them to register with consular offices.

"In light of an increasing pattern of security threats and disturbances affecting intercity road travel in West Java, which could spread to other areas of the country, American citizens may wish to exercise caution and seek advice before undertaking intercity road travel in Indonesia," an embassy statement said.

"In addition, continuing riots and looting in some parts of the country prompt the reminder that due to the possibility of increased tension and criminal activity arising from economic uncertainty in Indonesia, American citizens should exercise prudence and

common sense and avoid demonstrations and other situations that could turn violent."

More than 25 towns and cities have been rocked by rioting over soaring prices and shortages of basic goods in the last two weeks, with the ethnic Chinese minority bearing the brunt of the mob rage.

Vehicles on highways have also reportedly been attacked and at least five persons have been killed, all shot and killed by security forces. Much of the violence has been concentrated in East Java Province, which surrounds Jakarta.

Australian officials warned their countrymen in Indonesia to be on guard. Australia's ambassador to Indonesia, John McCarthy, warned Australians to take care, particularly traveling outside Jakarta and the resort island of Bali.

A British Embassy official said Britons were urged to register their presence in Indonesia and to seek advice

before traveling.

The French Embassy said that because of "developments," particularly in Java, Sulawesi, Lombok, Flores and Sumatra islands, it urged French nationals to be cautious when traveling in the provinces.

Similar warnings were believed issued by several other European embassies. Singaporeans have been told to avoid certain areas. The Singaporeans, along with ethnic Chinese from other states and ethnic groups who could appear Chinese, such as Koreans, have expressed concern they could be mistaken by mobs for local Chinese.

On Tuesday, China said it was "very concerned" for the safety of its citizens, including Hong Kong residents, in the growing violence.

Most embassies are understood to have reviewed evacuation procedures, although diplomats are reluctant to discuss the subject openly.

CNN Coproduction With White House Riles Competition

WASHINGTON — Has any other American program been so closely watched by its competitors as CNN's coproduction with the White House of the presidential inauguration ceremony? The network's new show, "The 1998 Presidential Inauguration," is being watched by its competitors with a keen eye.

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OHIO: Officials Heckled

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Mr. Clinton during the parade. He was heckled by a group of seven men, one of whom was shouting "Clinton is a liar!"

Clinton was escorted to the parade by a group of men. He was escorted to the parade by a group of men.

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INTERNATIONAL

CLINTON: Trusted Deputy Appears Before Grand Jury

Continued from Page 1

Ms. Lewis's attorney, Billy Martin, said that she remained under subpoena. He did not say when she would appear. "She's not doing well," he said.

Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Clinton have been close since they worked together in the 1960s for Senator J. William Fulbright of Arkansas. It is Mr. Lindsey to whom Mr. Clinton has turned in times of difficulty, whether dealing with the Whitewater real-estate affair or the harassment charges by Mrs. Jones.

Mr. Lindsey is never far from Mr. Clinton, in Washington or on the road. But as a fierce and determined loyalist of the president's, he is certain to make a highly reluctant witness.

Mr. Starr subpoenaed Mr. Lindsey because of conversations he had last year with Linda Tripp, the woman who taped more than 20 hours of conversation with Ms. Lewinsky in which the younger woman reportedly bragged to her friend of an 18-month affair with Mr. Clinton.

Ms. Tripp, who had been an executive assistant to Mr. Lindsey for a short time, reportedly wanted his advice after reporters asked her about an episode involving a White House volunteer, Kathleen Willey.

Ms. Tripp allegedly saw Mrs. Willey leave the Oval Office with her makeup smeared and her blouse askew.

Mrs. Willey has now been subpoenaed to testify before the grand jury investigating the Clinton-Lewinsky matter. The Washington Post reported Wednesday. She had said in a deposition in the Jones suit that Mr. Clinton made an unwelcome pass at her on Nov. 29, 1993, when she went to his office to seek a full-time job. Conflicting accounts have emerged of the alleged incident.

In a related development, a friend of Mrs. Willey's, Julie Hatt Steele of Richmond, Virginia, has told Mr. Clinton's attorneys that Mrs. Willey urged her to lie to a reporter. A lawyer for Ms. Steele said that Mrs. Willey wanted her friend to say that Mrs. Willey had mentioned the alleged incident with Mr. Clinton shortly after it occurred, instead of later.

Prosecutors also want to ask Mr. Lindsey about a three-page memo of "talking points" that Ms. Lewinsky gave to Ms. Tripp on Jan. 14, apparently to prepare her for a deposition in the Jones case by coaching her to offer a new interpretation of the incident with Mrs. Willey. The memo urged Ms. Tripp to say that she now found "it completely plausible that she herself smeared

her lipstick, untucked her blouse, etc."

Mr. Lindsey has denied any involvement in the talking-point memo, and its source remains unclear. But the memo, by urging Ms. Tripp to change her testimony, could provide evidence of an attempt to suborn perjury, one of the allegations the grand jury is investigating.

Some legal experts say the memo's language, some of it colloquial or imprecise, makes it doubtful that it was prepared by someone with legal training, such as Mr. Lindsey or Mr. Clinton's close friend Vernon Jordan.

Ms. Lewinsky has been in hiding in Washington since she returned here from California late last week. The timing of her eventual appearance before the grand jury remained unclear Wednesday. No progress was reported on arranging a grant of immunity in exchange for her full testimony.

There was new information, meanwhile, on why Ms. Tripp apparently decided to turn the tapes of Ms. Lewinsky over to Mr. Starr's office in mid-January.

Lucianne Goldberg, a New York book agent, told an interviewer Tuesday that Ms. Tripp became concerned in December that the tapes



Bruce Lindsey, left, and his attorney arriving Wednesday at the courthouse in Washington for the grand jury hearing.

she had secretly made of her phone conversations with Ms. Lewinsky might be illegal and began looking for a new lawyer who could arrange immunity from prosecution.

Ms. Goldberg said that Ms. Tripp's concern about the law led her to a new lawyer, and eventually to Mr. Starr.

Because of her cooperation, prosecutors offered her immunity from any prosecution at the federal level.

Meanwhile, Mr. McCurry, the White House spokesman, has tried

to play down comments he made in an interview with the Chicago Tribune, including the suggestion that there might not be a "simple, innocent explanation" of Mr. Clinton's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky.

While not retracting his statements, Mr. McCurry made it clear, in good-humored comments, that he did not know all the facts of the matter.

A "lapse in my sanity," he said, had led him to answer the Tribune's hypothetical questions.

JAPAN: Chorus of Complaints

Continued from Page 1

seems reluctant to backtrack on his pledge last year to reduce the budget deficit, and so far he has resisted calls for massive tax cuts or big public-works spending.

Although he did push for a major deregulation of the financial sector, Mr. Hashimoto has moved timidly in other areas. Given his plummeting popularity and weak position among the Liberal Democrats, he appears unwilling to force a showdown over deregulation efforts that would bring him into open conflict with politicians close to those protected industries.

Takayoshi Miyagawa, a well-known politician, said he did not expect Mr. Hashimoto to "dramatically change his policy unless there was a crisis such as a substantial drop in the stock market."

Rather than admit his economic policy was wrong, I think he would choose to resign," Mr. Miyagawa said.

Mr. Miyagawa said party officials would probably resort to old-line tactics such as artificially priming the stock market. Indeed, last weekend, Taku Yamazaki, chairman of the Liberal Democratic Party's policy-research council, promised the party would do its best to lift the Nikkei stock index above 18,000 points by the end of March.

The quickest way to jumpstart Japan's economy is probably an expensive public-works program, Western economists say. But because of corruption and bid-rigging in public-works projects, that spending is often inefficient and produces only a short-term blip, as well as an oversupply of bridges and tunnels in rural Japan.

"What you don't want is a repeat of 1996," said Jeffrey Young, an economist with Salomon Smith Barney. "In late 1995, Japan passed a huge stimulus budget. In 1996, it had the highest GDP growth of the G-7 nations, and then in 1997, when the fiscal measure ran out, you had the lowest growth, because you still had an economy with structural problems that was very vulnerable to shocks."

There is growing disagreement among lawmakers about next year's budget, and legislative action has fallen behind schedule. Mr. Miyagawa said that more and more, the talk in political circles here was that Mr. Hashimoto might resign to get the budget passed if it were to run into real trouble.

"What I'm saying is that there are great uncertainties surrounding the current policies," Mr. Miyagawa said. "If you ask me the chances, I would say it's 50-50. But now people mention resignation. It has been privately discussed before, but this week it was openly talked about. If that were to happen, then fiscal restraint would be shelved."

Other political analysts said Mr. Hashimoto's resignation appeared unlikely. "There's no agreement within the LDP on who would succeed Hashimoto at this point," Minawa Morita, a political analyst, said.

For now, Mr. Hashimoto says that two measures already approved, a bank stabilization package and a consumer-tax cut, will give a lift to the economy.

Meanwhile, concerns are growing that an expanding series of bribery investigations engulfing the government has left a power vacuum, further crippling decision-making. Japan's political system has historically resulted in weak prime ministers and strong bureaucrats. It prevented any Japanese leaders from taking aggressive actions to return Japan to economic health after the country's economic "bubble" burst seven years ago.

But the powerful Finance Ministry was able to pull strings to prevent economic crises from veering too far out of control. A series of recent scandals is changing that, analysts say.

On Wednesday, prosecutors asked the courts to issue an arrest warrant for Shoken Arai, a Liberal Democratic lawmaker. Mr. Arai, a former Finance Ministry bureaucrat and now a member of Parliament, is accused of receiving illegal payments from Nikko Securities Co. Because Parliament is in session, prosecutors must obtain legislative permission to arrest Mr. Arai. The Arai scandal comes on the heels of bribery scandals involving the Finance Ministry, Japan Highway Public Corp. and several prominent Japanese banks.

The result has been a reduction in the Finance Ministry's influence, said Naoki Tanaka, an influential political analyst. In a speech this week, Mr. Tanaka said it was not clear who or what would replace the Finance Ministry as a power center for economic policy.

Special correspondent Akiko Kashiwagi contributed to this report.

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BRIEFLY

Kaunda Is Notified of Charge

LUSAKA, Zambia — The government on Wednesday formally notified former President Kenneth Kaunda in court of the treason-related charge he has faced since his arrest in connection with an alleged coup plot.

Mr. Kaunda, 73, who was detained on Christmas Eve and subsequently moved from jail to house arrest, was charged with knowing that some members of the armed forces were planning a coup in October and failing to report this to the authorities.

Earlier, the state prosecutor, John Katongo, told the magistrates court that he wanted the charge fully explained to Mr. Kaunda. He is alleged to have committed "misprision of treason," misprision means the knowledge of a planned crime and the failure to disclose it. (AFP)

23 Massacred in Algerian Town

ALGIERS — New killings in western Algeria claimed 23 lives on Wednesday, the Algerian security forces announced in a statement. No details were provided.

The statement said the victims were killed at Sidi Djilali in the Tlemcen region near the border with Morocco, about 540 kilometers (340 miles) west of Algiers.

No one claimed responsibility for the attacks, but such incidents are usually blamed on the Armed Islamic Group, which is seeking to overthrow the military-backed government. (AP)

2 Provinces Oppose Quebec Bid

OTTAWA — The Saskatchewan and Yukon provincial governments have added their voices to those arguing before the Supreme Court that Quebec has no right to secede from Canada.

"The unilateral secession of any province would fracture the very foundations of Canada," Graeme Mitchell, a lawyer for the Saskatchewan government, told the nine justices Tuesday on the second day of hearings to determine the legal status of a secession attempt.

The historic case was initiated by the federal government, which says it would be willing to consider independence for Quebec, but only after a fair, clear-cut vote and after negotiations involving all of Canada.

Saskatchewan and Yukon agreed with the provinces of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories, which presented their arguments to the court Monday. (AP)

Mexican Centrist Party Created

MEXICO CITY — A former top official of Mexico's ruling party has created a centrist party, hoping to join opposition forces on the left and right to win the presidential race in 2000.

Manuel Camacho Solis, a former mayor of Mexico City, on Tuesday unveiled the Party of the Democratic Center to several thousand cheering supporters in a Mexico City office tower.

Mr. Camacho called for a united front among the country's often fractious opposition as the only way to topple the long-ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, in power since 1929.

The day has arrived to prepare for a historic change," Mr. Camacho said. "If we do not, we risk a new tragic period of decay of our government." (Reuters)

Metallurgists

Gunn Fein Takes Case Before Court

Indian Judge Hears Plea Against Expulsion From

Russia

By [Name]

AN MOSCOW — [Text about Russia]

EUROPE

Metallurgists Explore New Theory About the Titanic's Demise: Weak Rivets

By Michael E. Ruane
Washington Post Service

WASHINGTON — Tim Foecke was hunched over his microscope one day last autumn, poring over a rusted hunk of iron that had been sliced down the middle to reveal its silver-colored core and the pattern of its internal structure.

It was an antique rivet, made of Scottish iron and pounded, along with 3 million other rivets, into the White Star Line's famous hull No. 401 in Belfast's Harland & Wolff shipyard in 1910.

As Mr. Foecke studied the patterns of slag and dross, he saw that near one end, the rivet head was gone, the streaks of structural weakness. "Wow," he murmured to himself. Hull 401 had been the Titanic.

Mr. Foecke's discovery in September, in his tiny laboratory at the federal government's National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland, substantially bolstered a chilling new theory about the great ship's demise: that the vessel, the technical wonder of its day, may have had a fatal weakness in its lowly rivets.

The theory is that the wrought-iron rivets, born in the steelworks of the now-defunct D. Colvilles and Co., outside Glasgow, were structurally weak from unusual patterns and excessive amounts of the by-product slag.

And when the 46,000-ton RMS Titanic hit the 300,000-ton iceberg off the coast of Newfoundland the night of April 14, 1912, the impact did not slice a 300-foot gash in its side but, rather, popped the rivets, "unzipping" seams in the hull plates in six places. The total area open to the sea, experts now believe, may have been no bigger than a closet door.

It is the latest concept to emerge as scientists conduct a kind of continuing mechanical autopsy of the Titanic, in the wake of its discovery in 1985 in 12,000 feet (3,650 meters) of water by Robert Ballard, an oceanographer.

Working with artifacts recovered from the ocean floor, videotape, photographs and special underwater imaging, Mr. Foecke and a host of metallurgists, marine architects and other experts have been seeking to piece together the exact details of the catastrophe.

A student of history, as well as metallurgy, Mr. Foecke has become fascinated with the mystery

of the Titanic's sinking. "It's exciting," he said. "This has got to be one of the highest-profile metallurgical failure analyses that there are."

And he now believes that the "microstructure" of the rivets could be a key to the calamity.

But he and others stress that much remains unknown. "I'm not married to any particular theory," he said, adding that he has examined only a few of the 3 million hull rivets.

As for the ultimate cause of the sinking, George Tulloch, president of RMS Titanic Inc., the company that owns salvage rights to the ship, cautioned: "I'm not sure it's fair to take the iceberg off the block as the guilty party — or the people that hit it."

When it was completed April 2, 1912, the RMS (Royal Mail Steamship) Titanic was the largest moving object made by man. It was the size of an 11-story building, with a 101-ton rudder, and would carry 2,300 people — 1,500 of them doomed — on its maiden voyage nine days later.

Although it was considered a model of safety, after it struck the iceberg, it filled rapidly with 34,000 tons of water and sank in less than three hours, coming to rest in three large pieces about 2.5 miles (4 kilometers) beneath the surface.

Since the discovery of the wreck, there have been eight expeditions and 140 descents to the site, yielding about 5,000 artifacts — among them hull plates and rivets that were turned over to scientists for analysis. Another expedition is set for this summer.

Initial scrutiny turned up what appeared to be a weakness in the hull plates. Some of the inch-thick steel plates seemed to have properties that made them relatively brittle in cold water. Subsequent analysis, though, suggested that 2,000 steel plates used in the hull varied in quality.

During an expedition to the wreck in the summer of 1996, Paul Manias, head of Polaris Imaging Inc., used a special low-frequency sonar to scan the part of the hull — now buried in 60 feet of bottom mud — damaged by the iceberg.

Contrary to long-held suspicions about a giant gash, Mr. Manias found a series of six lateral openings in the starboard side that seemed to have been made by the Titanic bouncing off the iceberg as it scraped past.

"The position of these openings roughly corresponds to hull-plate boundaries," Mr. Manias said, throwing suspicion on the rivets. The experts studying the ship were intrigued.

"When I went back and analyzed Paul's findings," said William Garzke Jr., a naval architect who heads the Society of Naval Architects and Marine Engineers' Marine Forensics Panel, "I said: Hey, something's up here. We need to look at one other element that we haven't looked at very well, and that's the rivets."

The duty fell to Mr. Foecke, an expert in fracture mechanics, who had been given several rivets for analysis a few months before.

Mr. Foecke said he sliced one of the hull rivets with a diamond-tipped saw, took it to his lab and placed it under a special microscope called an optical metallograph. The metallograph enabled Mr. Foecke to study the pattern of slag streaks running the length of the rivet and to measure the levels of slag.

Wrought iron must have some slag — about 2 percent — to give it strength, he said. "Otherwise, it would be too strong. But too much makes it weak. The Titanic rivet, he found, had a dangerously high slag content of about 9 percent.

In addition, the streaks of slag, which should run lengthwise along the rivet, made a sudden 90-degree turn at one end, another serious flaw weakening the metal.

Sinn Fein Takes Case Before Court

Dublin Judge Hears Plea Against Expulsion Threat

DUBLIN — Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political wing, turned to a Dublin judge Wednesday in defense of its endangered right to stay in Northern Ireland's peace talks.

The British and Irish governments, which co-sponsor the talks, say Sinn Fein should be expelled temporarily because of their shared view that the IRA was responsible for two murders in Belfast last week.

The governments had intended to expel the party Monday, the first of three days of negotiations scheduled to take place in Dublin Castle.

But Sinn Fein won several adjournments from the chairman of the talks, former U.S. Senator George Mitchell, and has employed some of the Irish Republic's top lawyers to try to block the governments on another front.

Sinn Fein's legal team argued in the Irish High Court that Britain's Northern Ireland secretary, Marjorie Mowlam, had denied the party its constitutional rights.

Ms. Mowlam accepted the assessment of her police chief in the British-ruled province that the IRA was involved in two killings there last week. Under rules for the talks, that would be enough for Sinn Fein to be expelled.

Sinn Fein's lawyer, John McMenamin, stressed that Sinn Fein was participating "in a spirit of good faith" in the talks, which bring together the British and Irish governments and an array of Roman Catholic and Protestant parties from Northern Ireland.

They are trying to reach a political agreement to end three decades of violence, which has killed more than 3,200 people.

The IRA declared a cease-fire last July, winning a seat at the peace talks for Sinn Fein, which shares the gunmen's goal of Irish unity.

High Court Judge Frederick Morris adjourned the hearing until Thursday. Lawyers were serving written notices to Mr. Mitchell, his two deputies, and Ms. Mowlam to appear in court to answer Sinn Fein's complaint. The deputies are retired General John de Chastelain of Canada and former Prime Minister Harri Holkeri of Finland.

Judge Morris said he could not consider an injunction without giving the four "the opportunity of defending themselves."

Notably, Sinn Fein's appeal did not identify the Irish government as a defendant, even though it would have to back Sinn Fein's expulsion as well and has already appointed lawyers to contest the party's allegations.

Before the adjournment, Mr. McMenamin had argued that his Sinn Fein clients had "not at any time demonstrably dishonored the principles of democracy and nonviolence" that Mr. Mitchell requires of the talks' participants.

Among the grounds for Sinn Fein's appeal, he said, was the lack of any real opportunity to cross-examine Northern Ireland's police commander, Ronnie Flanagan, "as to how he formed his opinion" that the IRA killed a drug dealer and a Protestant militant.

The Sinn Fein chairman, Mitchell McLaughlin, who led a delegation into the courtroom, including a founding father of the modern IRA, Joe Cahill, said he was "extremely pleased" with the judge's initial ruling.

In the Dublin Castle talks themselves, Ms. Mowlam dismissed another formal appeal from Sinn Fein to drop the bid to have the party expelled.

Even if Judge Morris were to grant a stayable ruling to Sinn Fein, its shelf life would be short. The Dublin Castle talks were ending Wednesday, and any ruling in a Dublin court could have no authority in Northern Ireland, where the negotiations resume Monday.

See our International Franchises every Wednesday in The Internet



HONK AND MOO — French farmers protesting European Union policies on Wednesday by using tractors to block streets in Arras, in the north, and by leading a cow and calf through the Halles district in Paris.



Russia to Build Floating Nuclear Plants

By Richard C. Paddock
Los Angeles Times Service

MOSCOW — Nikolai Frolov has a plan to solve the energy problems of the future: a fleet of floating nuclear power stations that could bring electricity to any part of the world accessible by ship.

From the Arctic to the Indian Ocean, dozens of atomic energy plants — all owned by Russia — could be anchored offshore, docked in harbors or even towed upriver to deliver power. In dry regions, a station could generate enough energy to operate a companion desalination vessel and produce a steady flow of fresh water.

Mr. Frolov's vision is not science fiction. Construction recently began on the world's first floating nuclear power station, which is planned to serve Russia's Arctic mining town of Pevek, 1,100 kilometers (700 miles) west of Alaska.

"By building floating nuclear power plants, Russia will get a unique opportunity to deliver energy to these remote places," said Mr. Frolov, a nuclear engineer and head of international cooperation at the Kurchatov Institute in Moscow, the leading nuclear research center in Russia. "As far as I understand, no one else in the world is even thinking about building floating nuclear power plants."

Nearly 12 years after the catastrophic explosion at the Chernobyl nuclear power station in Ukraine, post-Soviet Russia has begun rebuilding its atomic-energy program — pushing ahead with a new generation of power plants and offering nuclear bargains around the world.

With a \$7 billion plan to build reactors in Iran, China and India, Russia could soon make nuclear energy one of its biggest exports. At home, Russia has resumed construction of reactors mothballed because of the Chernobyl disaster, as many as three could be completed next year, officials say.

The government maintains that nuclear power in Russia is no longer dangerous. The flaws in the Chernobyl-style reactor have been corrected, officials say, and all of the old plants have been retrofitted to prevent another disaster. The new generation of reactors has a different design and — whether the plants are floating or stationary — is "100 percent safe," they say.

Yet the atomic legacy that Russia inherited from the Soviet Union suggests otherwise. The communists' development of nuclear power resulted in a string of nuclear plant accidents dating from a reactor explosion at Chelyabinsk in the 1950s to the Chernobyl meltdown.

Radioactive discharges from nuclear reactors, waste dumps, weapons plants, research labs and aging nuclear submarines have left Russia with a trail of contamination from the Norwegian border to the Far East. In many regions, Russians have been exposed to high levels of radiation, and reports of birth defects are common.

Russian environmentalists argue that the government should clean up its nuclear waste before embarking on a program to build new atomic power stations. The international group Greenpeace contends that some nuclear plants being

FLIGHT: U.S. Jet Violated Altitude Rule

Continued from Page 1

swooping low over their houses. After the accident, motorists called in to say that they had witnessed the Prowler streaking over automobiles as it crossed a major roadway.

After a Prowler crashed on a training flight in Yuma, Arizona, in 1996, killing its four crew members, the Pentagon ordered that all Prowler flights must fly at least 1,000 feet (305 meters) above the ground. That altitude would have easily cleared the ski lift at Cavalese.

As it was, a lift cable would not be visible until about 650 feet away and if the pilot, Captain Richard Ashby, was flying near the Prowler's top speed of 550 miles an hour, as it seems, the plane would cover that distance in less than a second.

More than halfway through its flight, the Prowler veered left into a series of valleys, abruptly deviating, Italian government officials say, from its authorized route.

At 3:10 P.M., 34 minutes into the jet's flight, a bright yellow cable car loaded with skiers began its descent down Mount Cermis. Less than two minutes later, as the car approached the valley floor, Captain Ashby saw a yellow flash on the mountainside ahead and to his right.

It was the cable car.

The pilot banked sharply left and up to avoid it, but in the instant he had to react, it was too late. The right wing of the Prowler sliced through two cables, sending a car on the lift plummeting to the ground, killing all 20 aboard.

Less than 14 minutes later the Marine jet, badly damaged and leaking fuel and hydraulic fluid, landed at the NATO air base here.

The Prowler had a major role in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization

bombing attacks three years ago in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but it is clear that with a peace accord there, the risks of attacks on U.S. and other military aircraft in the region have been substantially reduced.

Still, both U.S. and Italian defense officials insist that training missions must be maintained.

Before the order to fly at altitudes no lower than 1,000 feet, flying at half that level was a military aviation art form widely practiced by pilots in planes like the EA-6B Prowler to avoid detection by enemy radar. Prowlers and other radar-jamming planes frequently fly ahead of a raid to clear the way for bombing missions. At such low levels, high speeds are actually safer because they improve maneuverability.

What is unclear is whether the Prowler should have been in the valley in the first place. The Pentagon insists that the Prowler was on the authorized flight path. But Italian officials say the valley was a deviation from the planned route and was unnecessary on a day when postcard-perfect weather made the authorized route easily passable.

The Italians banned low-level flights near the ski lift last August because the number of training runs had climbed to 900 a week in an area about the size of New Hampshire with a population level twice as dense. Since then, flights through the valley have been cut to 500 a week and low-altitude flying sharply limited.

But Italian prosecutors are investigating whether this order was properly passed to Captain Ashby and his crew. The commander of the Prowler's squadron, Lieutenant Colonel Richard Muegge, is being investigated for complicity, the prosecutors say, because he failed to inform his crews about the restrictions.

According to documents filed at the center, the Prowler was authorized to fly from Aviano north to Cortina d'Ampezzo at a cruising altitude of 3,500 feet, continuing to Brunico, where the crew would swing southwest over the Dolomites at a minimum altitude of 500 feet over the terrain to Ponte di Legno. There they would fly south to Casalmaggiore, in the Po Valley.

At that point they would swing north, following Lake Garda to Riva del Garda at the lake's north end. The last leg of their flight was to follow a line from Riva del Garda at a cruising altitude of 2,000 feet above the ground to the Marolada, a ridge of craggy, snow-dusted peaks whose highest point reaches almost 11,000 feet above sea level, and from there back to Aviano.

Why part of the flight was allowed to fly as low as 500 feet over the ground is not known. What is known is that there have been violations of altitude rules by Marine Prowler pilots.

After the accident, Lieutenant Colonel Stephen Wamers was relieved of his command of a Prowler squadron in North Carolina because he had told his squad to destroy any videotapes they had of missions at low altitudes. Home videos are often made during the flights, and one made last year showed the colonel himself flying below the minimum altitude of 1,000 feet off the ground, according to a high-ranking Marine officer at the Pentagon.

At 2:36 P.M., Captain Ashby and his crew took off from Aviano for Cortina. The sky was crystal clear, with little wind.

The Prowler has a single set of flight controls, at the pilot's seat on the front left, but the man in the right front seat, on this flight, Captain Joseph Schweizer, could serve as a co-pilot, assisting with communications and navigation. Captain Schweizer has 1,000 hours of experience in Prowlers, more than Captain Ashby, but under Marine rules, the pilot is responsible for the safety of the plane.

Behind Captain Ashby sat the two other crew members, Captain William Raney 2d and Captain Chandler Seagraves.

The Prowler does not have a civilian-style cockpit voice recorder or a flight data recorder, the so-called black boxes. It does carry a mission recorder, which tracks radar activity, altitude above sea level and latitude and longitude.

But the accuracy of the navigational record deteriorates by up to one nautical mile — almost 6,100 feet — for every hour of flight. By the time the Prowler hit the ski lift, the recorded location could have been off by half a mile, which would make a huge difference in calculating its height above uneven terrain.

But for a typical Prowler mission, the best equipment is a pilot's eyes.

"For that type of mission down that low, he is visually navigating," a retired flight instructor said. "He should be visually seeing how high he is."

BRIEFLY

2 German Soldiers Accused of Racism

BONN — Two German soldiers on peacekeeping duty in Bosnia hurled neo-Nazi insults at Albanian troops, telling them that "Adolf Hitler would have stuck you in the gas chamber," a television news program reported Wednesday.

The Defense Ministry said it was investigating the alleged incident last October at a German base at Rajlovac, outside Sarajevo, which Albanian peacekeepers help guard.

It was the latest report about far-right extremism in the German military in recent months that has tarnished the army's image. (AP)

Italy Alliance Split

ROME — Italy's center-right opposition Freedom Alliance was divided and weakened Wednesday after some members of two smaller parties decried a new political grouping headed by former President Francesco Cossiga.

Members of the two small parties — the Christian Democratic Center and the Christian Democratic Union — decided Tuesday to join Mr. Cossiga's formation, known as the Democratic Union for the Republic.

"Cossiga dismantles the Alliance," was the headline in Wednesday's edition of L'Unita, newspaper of the Democratic Party of the Left. (Reuters)

3 Ready to Quit Mir

MOSCOW — Two Russian cosmonauts and a French astronaut on the Mir packed up for their trip back to Earth on Thursday, which will mark the 12th anniversary in orbit for the Russian space station.

The two Russians, Anatoli Soloviyov and Pavel Vinogradov, arrived on Mir in August, a time when the troubled space station was plagued by a number of breakdowns, including a reduced power supply.

The two Russians packed up Wednesday and will leave Mir on Thursday morning along with the French astronaut, Leopold Eyharts, who has been aboard for three weeks conducting scientific experiments, the Interfax press agency reported. (AP)

Ferry Inquiry Ends

STOCKHOLM — The investigation into whether criminal charges should be filed in the Estonia ferry disaster is being closed without indictments, the probe's prosecutor said Wednesday.

"I'm not saying that nobody did anything wrong, only that I did not find anyone who was criminally careless," the prosecutor, Tomas Lindstrand, said, according to the Swedish press agency TT.

The Estonia sank on Sept. 28, 1994, killing 852 people. (AP)

At precisely 3:12:42 — noted by a seismographic station on Mount Cermis — Captain Ashby's Prowler sliced into the ski lift cables at about 540 miles an hour, virtually its top speed, according to Italian investigators.

The right wing cut a two-inch thick cable that holds the cable cars up and a three-quarter-inch cable that tugs them along.

At 3:26 the flight, code-named Easy 01, limped in to the Aviano base, leaking fuel and hydraulic fluid. The crew evacuated the plane so quickly that one crew member twisted an ankle leaping to the tarmac.

Aviation mechanics said the jet was seriously damaged in four places. On the front edge of the right wing, which had evidently sliced through the cables, were two gashes several feet apart, each about 6 inches deep. Electronic equipment under the wing was sheared off. And serious damage was evident on the tail, caused, investigators believe, when the heavier of the two cables snapped across the tail like a whip.

The Marines will not explain why the Italian maps with the ski lift on it were not used. American military flights generally use American maps, mostly because Pentagon officials trust American map-makers more than the agencies that draw local maps.

EDITORIALS/OPINION

Herald Tribune

PUBLISHED WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST

Bad Plan for Indonesia

Facing a plummeting economy and angry rioters, President Suharto of Indonesia has turned in desperation to a magical remedy known as a currency board. Such a board would tie the value of Indonesia's currency, the rupiah, to the value of the U.S. dollar and commit Indonesia to accumulating large dollar reserves with which it could, if needed, buy back all the rupiah its central bank has issued. In theory, a dollar-backed currency board assures foreign investors that their money is safe, leading them to return and thereby stimulating recovery.

But what sounds appealing, most Western experts warn, could easily backfire in practice. The International Monetary Fund and Clinton administration officials have rejected the adoption of a currency board because they rightly fear that, employed during a currency crisis, it could drive up interest rates, crushing the country's debt-burdened businesses. The high interest rates would be needed to attract tens of billions of dollars from the rest of the world to create a reserve fund big enough to reassure foreign investors. A currency board would also tie the supply of the rupiah in the economy to the flow of dollars from abroad, rather than to policy decisions by the Indonesian central bank. That means the central bank could no longer expand the money supply to fight off a collapse of domestic banks or to extract the economy from depression.

The advocates of a currency board point to its successful application in Hong Kong and Argentina. But Hong Kong is tiny, and cannot run a monetary policy independent of that of its trading partners. Argentina adopted its currency board only after it lost control of its monetary policy and flirted with hyperinflation and the disintegration of its monetary system. In that circumstance the currency board poses scant additional threat. Indonesia fits neither circumstance. For it to relinquish control over its monetary system amounts to reckless policy disarmament.

Mr. Suharto challenges the West to provide a better solution to his economic problems. That solution is agonizingly slow and painful. Indonesia must continue to postpone debt repayments to foreign creditors until it works out a realistic repayment schedule. Then Mr. Suharto must swiftly carry out his pledge, made to the monetary fund in exchange for a \$43 billion bailout, to fix Indonesia's bankrupt banking system. He appears to think he can grab the \$43 billion yet keep doing as he pleases. Fortunately, the monetary fund has threatened to cut off the money if Mr. Suharto proceeds with his foolhardy idea. The dictatorial Indonesian leader has the power to impose his irresponsible will on his countrymen. But the IMF must tell him the West will not be complicit.

—THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Pentagon Pep Rally

The Clinton administration, while still hoping for a diplomatic solution to the standoff in Iraq, has decided that it must educate the American people on why force may be needed, with all its inherent risks. To that end, President Bill Clinton led a kind of pep rally at the Pentagon Tuesday that, it seems to us, went only partway toward meeting its goals.

What was objectionable was not so much that the session began with an inappropriate and trivializing ritual of sycophantic self-praise moving up the chain of command — with the Joint Chiefs chairman, General Hugh Shelton, fawning over Defense Secretary William Cohen ("an extraordinary man"), Mr. Cohen paying tribute to Vice President Al Gore ("a firm and steady hand in our nation's foreign diplomacy"), and Mr. Gore delivering a campaign-style introduction for the president ("the man whose leadership and commitment to our nation's security and strength have done so much for the cause of peace and freedom around the world").

The more serious problem was the questions Mr. Clinton did not answer. The president laid out the need to take action. Saddam Hussein himself promised the United Nations that he would destroy his nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Mr. Clinton pointed out. But the Iraqi leader has repeatedly lied about his arsenal since making that promise, lies made perfectly evident by the repeated amendments Iraq makes to its declarations when caches are uncovered.

Mr. Clinton correctly noted that Saddam Hussein has put himself in a different category from any other leader, even those who also may aspire to or possess chemical weapons, because he has repeatedly used such weapons against his own and other people. And Mr. Clinton said that the credibility and future effectiveness of the United Nations, not just the United States, is on the line. Saddam Hussein's regime "threatens the safety of his people, the stability of his region and the security of all the rest of us," Mr. Clinton said.

But if the Iraqi threat is that serious, Mr. Clinton was less persuasive in arguing that he has found an equally serious remedy. His rhetoric has downshifted from promising to deny Saddam the capability to use weapons of mass destruction to pledging only to diminish that capability. He has said the United States will be ready to strike again if necessary.

But it is far from clear that air strikes are an effective weapon against the capabilities at issue here, and it is even less certain how the UN if it does not get its inspectors back into Iraq, will have sufficient information in six months or a year to credibly threaten a second round of military action.

For now, the administration's plan may well be the best of many bad

options, though that is not much of a slogan for a pep rally. It's easy, and in many cases justified, to point to the Bush and Clinton administration mistakes that helped produce this fix, but doing so does not make the challenge any simpler.

It's also easier to point to shortcomings in the administration strategy than to devise a better plan; Republican calls to give more money to Radio Free Iraq and the like may make sense but do not add up to a solution.

More far-reaching military action, such as the use of ground troops, would entail huge risks, too, which few of the administration's critics endorse such action. Still, if Saddam Hussein is as insupportable a threat as Mr. Clinton suggests, the U.S. president needs to explain why such an alternative is not being considered. At a minimum, he needs to present air strikes as merely one stage in a campaign that may need to be sustained well into the future.

The nations that have objected so loudly to military action heretofore also have a special responsibility now. Mr. Clinton is right to give every reasonable diplomatic option a chance to play out, including mediation by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan if it can be arranged. But he is also right to insist, as should every United Nations Security Council member, that the only acceptable outcome is one that allows UN inspectors to freely pursue their jobs for as long as they deem necessary.

If Saddam Hussein does not consent, it will be fair to ask the French, Russian, Japanese and Chinese governments not just to get out of the way but to support — militarily or financially — the only viable option Iraq has left to the world.

—THE WASHINGTON POST.

Other Comment

Nigerian Intervention

Nigerian involvement in driving the rebels out of Freetown does not mean that Nigeria has suddenly become a status defender of constitutional legality in the region.

In fact, Nigeria's intervention in Sierra Leone is motivated more by the desire to strengthen its influence in West Africa and to enhance its lately tarnished prestige.

Furthermore, just as Nigerian troops are entering Freetown, a trial has begun in central Nigeria against a group of generals accused of conspiring against President Sani Abacha's government.

One cannot help suspecting that another reason the leaders in Abuja are willing to send their elite troops abroad is to keep them out of mischief.

—Neue Zürcher Zeitung (Zurich).

Attacking Iraq: Immoral and Counterproductive

By William Pfaff

PARIS — Nearly everyone by now seems agreed that air attacks on Iraq by the United States could not accomplish what Washington wants, which at a minimum is to restore free movement for UN arms inspectors, and at most to overturn Saddam Hussein.

Nearly everyone actually seems to agree that such attacks would terminate UN inspections for good, strengthen the Iraqi president's political position and further destabilize the Gulf and Middle East, while weakening the influence of the United States.

Some logical people therefore say don't do it. Some others have logically concluded that it is necessary to do much more: invade and occupy Iraq, depose Saddam Hussein and sponsor a replacement government.

Since few officials engaged in the conduct of American policy want to call off the war — having been marching up this hill for weeks now, fives skirling and drums pounding — and still fewer have any appetite for a real war with many dead Americans, the logical conclusion the analyst must draw is that the United States will go ahead with the attack, which will fail, as predicted, followed by all of the bad consequences that everyone has already foreseen.

The affair no longer is connected to common reality. It is a matter of symbolic action and gesture, related to political power, policy investment and status inside Washington, and is now driven forward for the sake of its media narcissism, which, in the ambient narcissism, has become the operative reality.

Iraq is no longer a place but a concept. The new Hollywood film "Wag the Dog," which portrays a scandal-challenged president staging a computer-generated, special-effects television war against an imaginary Albania, suggests only half the truth about Washington today. The actual Iraq and its president now are figurants in the great audiovisual game of international affairs as played in Washington.

Do they not bleed, those Iraqis? For too many in the Washington policy community, they bleed no more than Bruce Willis bleeds, or Arnold Schwarzenegger — or Dr. No. They bleed only for those for whom this is not a virtual game, such as those aboard the carrier jets that will be launched into 4 A.M. darkness next week, when the Olympic Games are over (so we are told to expect), who will also face the possibility of dying — possibly, after ejecting, by being stoned to death on the ground by their bombings' wretched victims.

I am no pacifist, having spent my 20s as a volunteer to fight America's hot

and cold wars, but I believe that acts of war without clearly achievable objectives, without a clear connection between the acts and the intended results, are immoral.

I regret that the United States in recent years has abandoned that principle and has carried out several intrinsically futile and fundamentally self-indulgent attacks on other states, including the invasions of Grenada and Panama, and that it is now building up to another.

That Saddam Hussein is a war criminal and a despicable tyrant is beyond doubt, but the American plan is not to snatch him away for delivery to The Hague war crimes tribunal, while liberating his nation's people. In practice the United States would seem to punish the despot's people because of the despot's crimes.

The Gulf War was justified, as was the Falklands War. Both responded to acts of aggression, were successful and vindicated the principles of international legality. The prospective attack on Iraq responds to outlaw conduct and to the hypothetical threat of aggression but offers no serious prospect of changing either. The UN Security Council and the majority of nations in the region, as elsewhere, have thus far declined to endorse an attack.

During the 1950s and 1960s, confronted with the desperate problems of

political morality created by nuclear weapons and the Cold War, a part of the analytical community in the United States and Britain looked for help from philosophy and theology.

Certain American strategic thinkers and military men were particularly influenced by the reflections on war's morality by Thomas Aquinas and the late-Renaissance Spanish theologian Francisco Suárez.

Their arguments concerning a just war hold, among other things, that a war should be undertaken by lawful authority, be an act of last resort, employ only proportionate violence, create fewer wrongs than it rights and enjoy a reasonable expectation of achieving a victory that accomplishes the purposes for which it was begun.

I cannot see that any of those criteria are met in what America proposes to do to Iraq. The theologians specifically condemn a war that is waged merely to maintain a nation's prestige.

Washington today is not in the habit of consulting either theological or philosophical opinion in the course of its policy deliberations. However, the force of the arguments I have cited is not in their authority but in their common sense. Surely we are not imperious to common sense?

International Herald Tribune.

Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

It's Up to Saddam to End the Suffering of the Iraqi People

By Bill Richardson

The writer is U.S. ambassador to the United Nations.

UNITED NATIONS, New York

For far too many years, the Iraqi people have been forced to bear an onerous burden. During the 1980s and early 1990s, the country was devastated by the disastrous policies of its leaders, which led to a decade of almost constant war.

Today, the Iraqi people continue to bear terrible hardships. Illness, malnutrition and poverty are rampant.

The burden of responsibility for their suffering lies squarely on the shoulders of one person — Saddam Hussein. His consistent refusal to comply with UN Security Council resolutions, his unceasing efforts to build weapons of mass destruction and his blatant attempts to manipulate and choreograph the misery of Iraqi women and children make clear his utter lack of concern for his own people.

The current situation traces its origins to the 1990 invasion of Kuwait. After reversing Iraqi aggression in the Gulf War, the UN Security Council

passed a series of resolutions — enforced by international sanctions — to help ensure that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction program would be fully dismantled and that Saddam would be prevented from rebuilding his military forces.

These sanctions exempted food and medicine, which Iraq remains free to purchase on the open market. The international community has never sought to punish the Iraqi people for the sins of their leaders.

Clearly, however, Saddam Hussein's priorities lie elsewhere. At the same time that Iraqis are suffering from food shortages and a lack of civilian housing, Saddam has spent as much as \$2 billion on lavish palaces for himself and his ruling clique.

What's more, Iraq continues to hoard and stockpile food and medicine for use by its military and regime supporters, while

drastically reducing programs of humanitarian assistance for its own people. The result is that today the people of Iraq rely almost exclusively on the United Nations for their food and medicine.

The fact is, the Iraqi regime has demonstrated a far greater desire to continue building weapons of mass destruction than it has to feeding its own people. Developing mustard gas, anthrax or the nerve agent VX never fed one hungry child, but for the Iraqi regime it seems to be far more important.

Led by the United States, the international community has sought to help Iraq generate the revenue it needs to purchase food and medicine. We proposed that Iraq be allowed to sell limited quantities of oil in exchange for humanitarian supplies. For four years, however, while his people were suffering, Saddam rejected this proposal.

Last year, Iraq finally allowed an oil-for-food program to go forward. Since then more than 3 million tons of food have been delivered to the Iraqi people and 95 percent of all contracts for food and medicine have been approved.

Even so, Iraq recently requested that the UN defer consideration of contracts for \$120 million in humanitarian assistance. In UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan's recent report on the oil-for-food program, he noted that most of the delays and disruptions in the delivery of food and medicine had been caused not by the United Nations or the international community but by Iraqi actions.

The grave threat that weapons of mass destruction pose, as well as Saddam's past inclination to use them against combatants and civilians alike, precludes any compromise on the part of the international community in ensuring that Iraq's capacity to produce these weapons and threaten its neighbors is reduced.

Nonetheless, the United States — along with its colleagues in the United Nations — remains committed to ending Iraq's suffering. In particular, we have now received Secretary-General Annan's report on ways to improve the effectiveness and the implementation of the oil-for-food program.

We are prepared to support a significant increase in the scope of this program, including expanding oil sales to allow for the additional purchase of food and medicine. Unlike Saddam Hussein, we will not hold the Iraqi people hostage.

In the end, however, responsibility for the plight of Iraq's people lies not in New York or Washington but in Baghdad. If the Iraqi regime truly cares about its people, its course of action is clear: Comply with UN resolutions; spend money on food, not weapons and palaces; and make a serious effort to alleviate the nation's suffering. Only then will the tragic burden on the Iraqi people be lifted.

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After Suharto, Who? The Answer Is Far From Obvious

By Alan Dupont

CANBERRA — Two widely held misperceptions about Indonesia have gained currency in recent months.

The first is that the country is on the verge of collapse, as the government of President Suharto struggles to turn around its battered economy and keep the lid on escalating political and social tensions.

While there is no doubt that this is the most serious crisis of confidence the retired general has faced, Indonesia is far from the level of economic chaos,

civil unrest and anarchy that existed in 1965, when he replaced the country's founding president, Sukarno.

Mr. Suharto, 76, is still in the driver's seat, and for all the erosion of his moral and political authority he remains a formidable and resilient leader. Food riots and other social disturbances, while spreading, have yet to seriously challenge the government's writ.

Moreover, the armed forces

— including the police, which are under the military's command — are far better equipped and trained to manage civil disturbances than they were in the past.

The second misperception concerns the significance of the vice presidential election next month, which will accompany the presidential election.

Most analysts assume that the successful vice presidential candidate, now almost certain to be the controversial research and technology minister, B.J. Habibie, will become Mr. Suharto's long-term successor if the president steps down or is incapacitated during his next five-year term.

For this reason, the March meeting of the electoral college is seen as the most crucial of Mr. Suharto's long rule. What is often forgotten, however, is that if the vice president replaces Mr. Suharto, before the president's term expires, he must be confirmed within six months by a special session of the 1,000-member electoral college, known as the People's Consultative Assembly. It is by no means sure that Mr. Habibie would secure the assembly's endorsement, especially if the military withheld its support.

Military backing is vital for any aspiring presidential contender, even more so at a time of political and social strife.

The assumption that there will be a seamless transfer of power from Mr. Suharto to his vice president becomes even more problematic if Mr. Habibie is indeed the successful nominee.

Although the armed forces have endorsed the colorful but erratic science and technology czar, there is no great affection or respect for him in the officer corps. Military support for Mr. Habibie could quickly evaporate without Mr. Suharto's continuing patronage.

So who will be the president's long-term successor if not Mr. Habibie? The strongest candidates appear to be the current vice president and former armed forces commander Try Sutrisno; Mr. Suharto's eldest daughter, Siti Hardianti Rukmana, and Information Minister Hartono, a retired army chief.

Mrs. Rukmana and Mr. Hartono are the least likely to succeed Mr. Suharto because they carry too much political baggage. Mr. Try has an outside

chance but is generally considered to lack the requisite skills and drive for the highest office.

It is more likely that Mr. Suharto's eventual successor will come from among the ranks of the next generation of recently promoted senior military officers.

The three men to watch are the armed forces commander, General Wiranto, a former aide to Mr. Suharto; the head of the army's strategic reserve, Lieutenant General Prabowo Subianto, who is Mr. Suharto's son-in-law, and the military's ideological watchdog, Lieutenant General Bambang Yudhoyono.

General Wiranto is almost universally well-regarded in the armed forces and elite civilian circles. While he may lack charisma, he has a certain presence that is important in Indonesia, especially in Java, where, as well as a reputation for integrity and professionalism, he lacks the broad national experience of earlier generations of military officers but is a fast learner and a good listener.

General Prabowo is highly capable, sophisticated, ruthless and a far more practiced politician than General Wiranto. However, he has his share of detractors, who accuse him of being manipulative, emotional and too nakedly ambi-

tious. His family connections have so far proved advantageous, but whether this continues to be the case will depend on how long Mr. Suharto remains at the helm.

General Yudhoyono is the dark horse of the three, but he is arguably the most intelligent and the deepest thinker. General Prabowo probably regards him as his major rival for the job in the armed forces and perhaps for the ultimate prize — the presidency of the world's fourth most populous nation.

For the moment, General Wiranto must be considered the most likely long-term successor to Mr. Suharto. Little is known about how he would seek to govern Indonesia or about the kinds of economic and social policies he would adopt. If General Wiranto does not become president himself, he will probably be the kingmaker. Certainly no successor to Mr. Suharto could emerge and govern without General Wiranto's support.

The writer, a former Australian diplomat who was posted to Jakarta from 1997 to 1998, is the director of the Asia-Pacific security program at the Australian National University's Strategic and Defense Studies Center in Canberra. He contributed this comment to the International Herald Tribune.

IN OUR PAGES: 100, 75 AND 50 YEARS AGO

1898: Lagos Incident

PARIS — [The Herald says in an Editorial:] A telegram from Lagos records the occupation by British native troops of Boreia in the Lagos Hinterland, and the subsequent arrival on the spot of a French officer who ordered the British flag to be hoisted. This request being disregarded, he withdrew with his forces, refusing the offers of a conference made by the British commander. Such is the incident which caused a great sensation in the House of Commons.

1923: German Expelled

DUSSELDORF — Dr. Gruetzer, President of the Prussian Government District, in which are included Düsseldorf and the Ruhr area, was arrested by the French and expelled from occupied territory. This step, which is due to the alleged insulting tone of a

letter written by Dr. Gruetzer to protest against the conviction of Dr. Jarres, Mayor of Duisburg, and sentence of one month's imprisonment for defying the French authorities, is the most sensational sanction yet taken against any individual German.

1948: De Valera Loses

DUBLIN — John A. Costello, a Dublin lawyer, was elected Prime Minister of Eire after Eamonn De Valera's bid for a return to power. Mr. De Valera had been Prime Minister for sixteen years. His downfall brought Eire back to its original position as a neutral state. De Valera's predecessor was William Cosgrave, who accepted a treaty with Britain creating the Free State. Mr. De Valera opposed the treaty and eleven years ago fostered a new Irish constitution which formed the independent Republic of Eire.

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The writer, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, is a former deputy director of the Office of Management and Budget. He contributed this comment to The New York Times.

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TribTech

In Electronics' Future, A Microscopic Revolution

Nanotubes Expected to Replace Silicon Devices

By Malcolm W. Browne
New York Times Service

SCIENTISTS experimenting with a fascinating speck of matter called a single-walled carbon nanotube say this elegantly geometrical molecule is about to ignite a revolution in electronics, computers, chemistry and new structural materials.

In place of the relatively large electronic devices incorporated in silicon-based chips, physicists have proved that it is possible to create devices on an atomic and molecular scale. A single electron in a single-wall carbon nanotube could function as a microminiature transistor.

Nanotubes only a few atoms in diameter, which spontaneously form from hexagonal arrays of carbon atoms, were discovered in 1991 by Dr. Sumio Iijima of NEC Fundamental Research Laboratories in Tsukuba, Japan. These tubes, actually elongated molecules, form in furnaces from vapor generated by carbon arcs and lasers. They take their name from the nanometer, a unit of measurement one-billionth of a meter long — a convenient length for specifying molecular dimensions.

Several recent reports show that nanotubes only one-50,000th the thickness of a human hair can perform the same electronic functions as vastly larger silicon-based devices. As a result, a computer based on nanotube devices could be extremely compact, fast and powerful.

LEX Zettl and his research group at the University of California at Berkeley recently showed that when two slightly dissimilar nanotube molecules were joined end to end, the "junction" between them functioned as an electronic device called a diode. Diodes are the basis of rectifiers, devices that are commonly used to convert alternating current into direct current.

"When we grow nanotubes," Dr. Zettl said, "electronic devices naturally form on them."

As ever smaller electronic devices are needed to improve the speed and power of computers, "the silicon industry is coming up against a brick wall," Dr. Zettl said. The solution may be to replace the silicon-based devices used today with minuscule carbon molecules, which would have another advantage: They conduct heat much faster than silicon and therefore would be more suitable for microelectronics.

LOOKING farther into the future, Dr. Zettl suggested that clumps of carbon nanotubes might spontaneously organize their electronic interactions into complex webs analogous to the neural networks of the brain. The density of nanotube interconnections achieved by clumping them together is staggering: If all the nanotube carbon molecules that could be packed into a one-half-inch cube were laid end to end, they would extend 250,000 miles (400,000 kilometers).

Dr. Zettl speculated in an interview that a random jumble of nanotubes in such a cube could generate a network of nanocomputers that might be able to perform complex tasks and reconfigure itself to improve its own efficiency.

Such a "tube cube," as Dr. Zettl calls the imaginary nanotube brain, may never materialize. But recent research offers strong evidence that nanotubes have, at least, a great electronic future.

Research reported in October by Dr. Zettl and his colleagues produced evidence that a single nanotube molecule could contain many tiny devices: transistors and other essential components of electronic systems.

At NASA's Ames Research Center at Moffett Field in California, a group recently reported that by inserting defects into the junctions between metal-like nanotubes and semiconductor nanotubes, it had created a variety of junction types within a single nanotube molecule.

A pair of papers published in January in the journal Nature, one by chemists at Harvard University and the other by scientists at Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands and Rice University in Houston, independently reported the discovery that the electronic properties of a nanotube depended on the molecule's twist.

Chemists describe the raw material of nanotubes as sheets of graphite only one

atom thick that are condensed from carbon vapor. Carbon atoms linked together in graphite sheets spontaneously form a pattern resembling chicken wire.

When such a sheet rolls itself into a tube so that its edges join seamlessly together, a nanotube is formed. Usually,

hemispherical caps form at the ends of each tube, closing it.

The group in the Netherlands and the Harvard team both reported that there was a strong relationship between a nanotube's electronic properties and its diameter and degree of twist.

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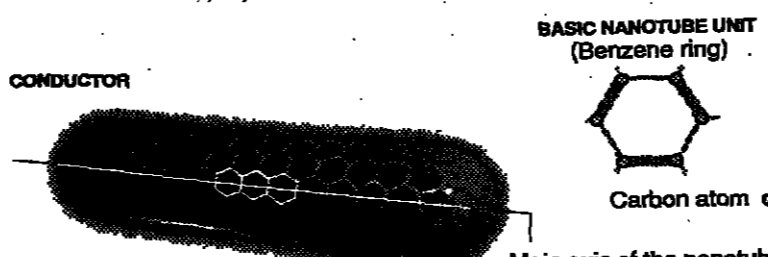
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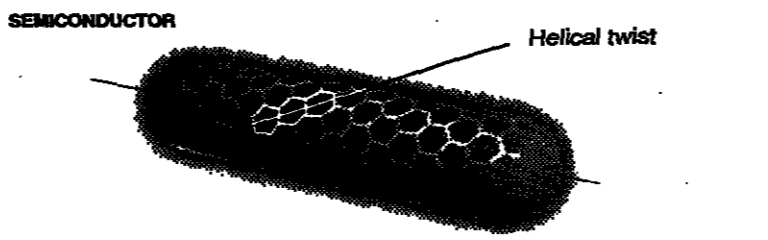
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In a Few Atoms, Many Possibilities

Nanotubes, molecules made mainly of carbon atoms, might one day replace silicon chips in computers much smaller than today's models. Nanotubes can be formed from condensed carbon vapor and they are 1/50,000th as thick as a human hair. Here are some types of nanotubes and their electrical properties.

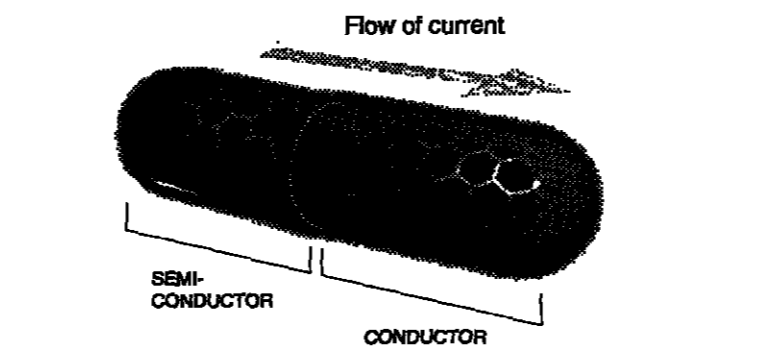


When the carbon rings line up with the main axis of a nanotube, the molecule conducts electricity as easily as if it were metal.



When the pattern of hexagonal rings in a nanotube is twisted, the nanotube acts like a semiconductor. That means it conducts electricity only after a certain threshold is reached.

DIODE
When two nanotubes, one a conductor and one a semiconductor, are joined into one molecule, their junction acts like a diode, permitting electric current to flow only in one direction.



Source: University of California at Berkeley

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ALT / Q&A With Paul Otellini

Intel Casts Its Net Wide As New Markets Beckon

As executive vice president for Intel Corp.'s sales for the past four years, Paul Otellini has focused on extending the chipmaker's global presence. Mr. Otellini, 47, who has been with Intel since 1974, took over last month as general manager of the Intel architecture business group and is seen as the third-ranking Intel executive behind Andrew Grove, chairman, and Craig Barrett, president.

On a recent trip to Paris, he spoke with editors of the International Herald Tribune about Intel's place in world markets.

Q. How dependent is Intel on the growth of your international markets?

A. I would say very. Most of our business is not U.S. and hasn't been for some time. I'm in a new job now, but four years ago I took over sales and marketing for Intel. Over those four years, every incremental dollar to invest went to emerging markets. We actually shrank our resources in Western Europe and the United States to help fund some of that.

The sales in emerging markets went from half a billion dollars a year four years ago to over \$3 billion today. That's over 50 percent of the company. I think they are going to continue to grow as a percent. These are countries we defined as not covered three or four years ago — Latin America, Eastern Europe.

Q. Do you see Europe in particular closing the gap technologically, making sales more difficult if their own producers emerge?

A. From a chip perspective, there really aren't any European competitors, at least for our stuff. SGS-Thomson is not even on the radar screen now.

I think there is an issue with the fact that the European computer companies are sort of hanging on at best, and they're not gaining share against the big multinationals.

I think the European computer companies have some soul-searching in terms of "How do I compete with an aggressive Compaq or a pervasive IBM?" That's going to be tough.

The thing that is strong, though, is this category that's "other." Particularly in Europe, the "other" category, the unbranded, the brands that fall below everyone's radar screen, is 35 percent to 40 percent of the business, depending on which country you're in, and remains 35 percent to 40 percent of the business year after year.

Q. Do you feel your competition in the future is going to be a cheaper chip or a bigger, better, faster chip?

A. That question gets asked every two years, every time we're at the middle of a generational transition. I mean, would you still use a 486 today, or a 386, or a 286? Probably not.

There are a couple of vectors here. One is if you take a long-term view, say, two or three years. What we believe in the industry we need to do is to make



Paul Otellini, Intel vice president.

these things a hell of a lot easier. Ease of use requires more consuming power, not less.

The ultimate ease of use is speech. Nobody wants to deal with commands. You want to be able to talk to it in phrases that are human-like and not DOS commands. To be able to have that interpretation and not have to be trained requires three to four times the computing power that's in a PC today. The good news is, computing power moves at that rate.

The other stuff is that I think Internet commerce is right about on us. The data I saw was that it's at \$10 billion today. It exited last year at a \$20 billion run rate, and there are projections that approach \$1 trillion in the next few years.

Andy [Grove] calls it the war for eyeballs. As there is increasing competition on the Net to sell services, the way you sell those is the way you do it. It's not just advertising, which is better Web pages, videos, that kind of stuff. All that requires computing power.

I think it's easy to say that if you want to do is simplistic Web surfing or word-processing or simple spreadsheet, you're right. The \$800 PC going to the \$600 or \$500 appliance is more than adequate for that. But I don't think that's where the market's going to be.

Q. As dependent as you are on international sales, what is the Asia situation now?

A. We're O.K. on average, on balance. Obviously, Korea and Southeast Asia are troublesome — Thailand and Indonesia. Malaysia's O.K. China's been very strong for us throughout this whole thing, and as long as China remains strong and grows, we're on balance going to be fine in Asia.

Our business levels in Japan have dropped substantially from the first half of last year to the second half of last year. I have not heard a good explanation as to why computer sales are down in Japan. I don't see them getting any worse, and I don't see them getting any better. I think they're going to stay at the current levels for some time.

A Push to Provide 'Safe Playgrounds' in Cyberspace

By Denise Caruso
New York Times Service



Paul Oteellini, Intel vice president,

these things a hell of a lot easier. Ease of use requires more computing power, not less.

The ultimate ease of use is what Nobody wants to deal with tomorrow. You want to be able to talk in phrases that are human-like and DOS commands. To be able to interpret and not have to be interpreted, three to four times the computing power that's in a PC today. Good news is computing power is at that rate.

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I saw was that it's at \$10 billion in
excess last year and \$20 billion more
and there are projections that are
\$1 trillion in the next few years.

...evaluating it, there is increasing
pressure on the Net to sell some-
way to the customer, the way rain
forest ecotourism is, which is hard
going to be that kind of stuff for
the future, with the power

There's no denying it: say that e-mail, the Internet, and the Web are making it easier to get things done, and you're right. The same PC environment that makes it so easy to communicate is also making it so easy to get lost. But I don't think

Q. What is the difference between a
 "good" and a "bad" person?

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...the second half of the year.

LOGY INDEX

BIOGRAPHY INDEX

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SECRET

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CD format, and a special high-resolution CD. The high-resolution CD is a new format that allows for higher sampling rates and bit depths than standard CDs. This results in a more accurate representation of the original analog signal, which can be heard as a more natural and detailed sound. The high-resolution CD is also compatible with standard CD players, so you can enjoy the benefits of high-resolution audio without needing a special player. The high-resolution CD is a great way to experience the full range of frequencies and dynamics of your favorite music, and it's a great way to support the music industry by purchasing high-quality recordings.

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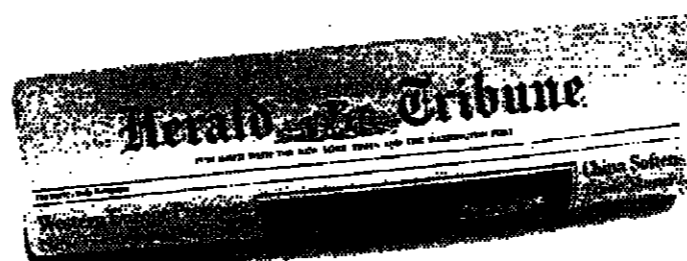
Almaty, June 4-5, 1998

H.E. President Nursultan Nazarbayev will give a keynote address at the Summit.

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THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

Nationwide prices not reflecting late trades elsewhere
The Associated Press

SECRET

Continued on Page 16

Hong Kong Celebrates New Budget

Stock Market Rises 4% As Corporate Taxes Fall

By Philip Segal
International Herald Tribune

HONG KONG — With the economy and stock market battered by the Asian financial crisis and public optimism at its lowest level since the economic crash of 1983, Hong Kong's cash-rich government announced a balanced budget on Wednesday, featuring lower taxes and a hold-the-line stance on the territory's fixed-exchange rate.

Real estate and banking stocks — the lifeblood of Hong Kong's market — surged as the budget proposed a 3 percent cut in the tax on corporate profits and a new annual deduction worth 100,000 Hong Kong dollars (\$12,900) on residential mortgages. The measures are designed to revive the moribund real estate market, which has been pummeled by high interest rates. Allowances on personal taxes for most residents here will rise by 8 percent.

The budget, the first since Britain handed the colony back to China last July 1, featured spending increases on housing and education.

In the past, China has criticized Hong Kong's financing of social programs, not wanting the colony's reserves drawn down.

The budget for the year beginning April 1 came as a new poll, released by the University of Hong Kong, said that 93 percent of respondents thought economic conditions had deteriorated since Hong Kong came under Chinese rule. The event that set off Asia's currency crisis, the devaluation of the Thai baht, came just a day after Hong Kong returned to Chinese sovereignty on July 1.

With its tax cuts, the budget was "better than expected," said Philip Niem, head of research at brokerage HSBC James Capel. The budget helped the benchmark Hang Seng index rise 4.3 percent, to 10,670.95.

In the budget, Financial Secretary Donald Tsang sought to deal with an economy facing its worst financial crisis since 1983, when the Hong Kong dollar crashed, and banks failed amid a panic caused by the news that Britain had agreed to hand Hong Kong back to China in 1997. At the time, fixing the Hong Kong dollar to the U.S. dollar helped stabilize Hong Kong. Now, however, this currency link has sent property prices plunging by as much as 40 percent in four months as the government has more than doubled interest rates to protect the currency.

Mr. Tsang predicted Hong Kong's economy would grow by 3.5 percent this year once inflation was taken into account, which is rosier than the predictions of many private economists.

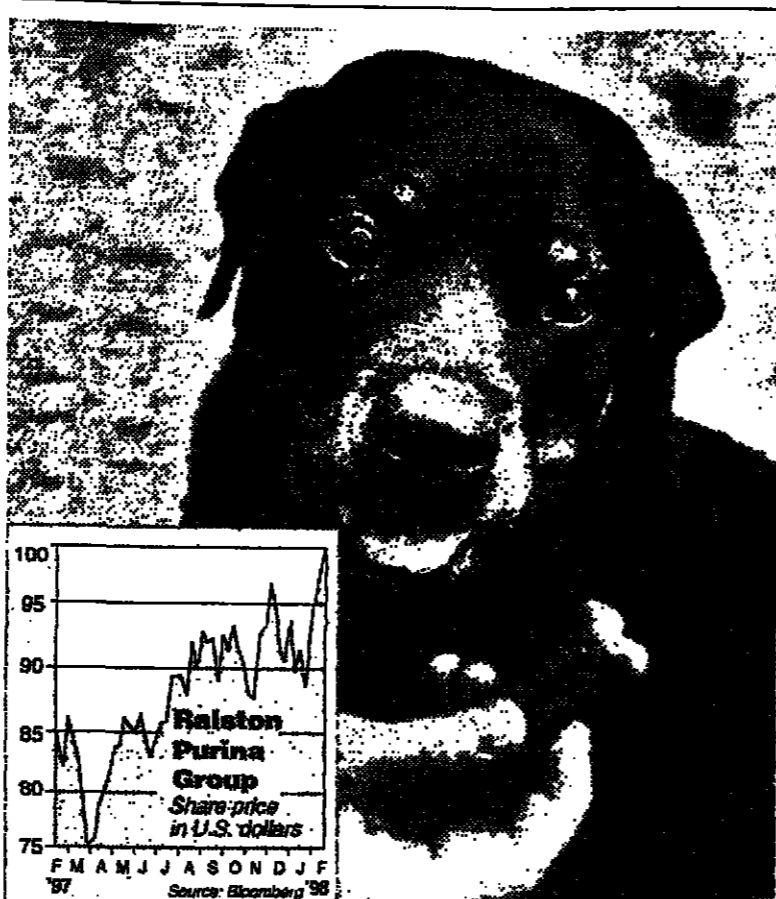
One of the most keenly anticipated parts of the budget speech, delivered by Mr. Tsang in the Provisional Legislative Council, dealt with the fixed exchange rate. There had been widespread speculation that the government might introduce changes to the way the government defends the currency, but there were none in the budget.

"The system has been working as designed," Mr. Tsang said. "Devaluation is not a way out. Everything we manufacture we make with imported products. Almost everything we consume we import. Devalue today, and tomorrow all those imports would cost us more."

Mr. Tsang also drew attention to the fact that 85 percent of Hong Kong's trade is now in services, where the fixed exchange rate has made Hong Kong's wages, rents and property prices seem higher than elsewhere in Asia. To stay competitive, Hong Kong residents have been told that property prices will have to fall, although the government indicated last week that it will try to cushion the market from falling too far, lest it set off a banking crisis.

The budget also calls for an increase of 52 percent in spending on housing, in an effort to meet the target of 85,000 new apartments per year from 1999. Half of Hong Kong's residents live in public housing.

WALL STREET WATCH



Some say splitting the company would be a tasty reward for investors.

Purina: Pulling Itself Out of the Doghouse

Analysts Say Battery Spin-Off Would Help

By Dana Canedy
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Pet owners love Rastol Purina Co.'s canine and feline cuisine. So why do some investors consider its stock a dog? One problem is a lack of good information. The only high-profile member of Rastol Purina's team is the pesky pink bunny that promotes its Energizer batteries, the company's other business.

Management rarely talks to analysts, and Wall Street does not know what to make of quirky Rastol Purina, which has two chief executives to cover its disparate product lines.

Steve Galbraith, who follows the company for Sanford C. Bernstein & Co., said, "They run their investor-relations program like the Kremlin. A lot of stuff goes in, but not a lot of stuff comes out."

William Stirtz, the longtime chief executive of the company, participated in only two conference calls with investors during his tenure, according to analysts. One was to announce his appointment in 1981, and the other was to announce his retirement last year. In the second one, Mr. Stirtz, who is still chairman, named two chief executives as his replacements, one for the pet-food business and one for the battery business. That could be a prelude to a split into two public companies that many analysts see as a potentially lucrative move.

"These two individual divisions on their own might garner some higher valuation and investor interest," said Steven Bregman, president of Horizon Asset Management and the author of the Spinoff Report, a newsletter. "Companies, even with market-leading businesses but otherwise unrelated, for some reason trade at a discount to where they would be if each traded separately."

Rastol Purina has been jettisoning smaller divisions for several years and next month will spin off its agricultural-products business. Excluding that unit, the company's \$4.5 billion in annual revenue is split about evenly between batteries and pet food.

Company officials did not return phone calls seeking comment.

T. Rowe Price, the mutual-fund company, has a big stake in Rastol Purina and supports its decision to

focus on batteries and pet food while shedding everything else, from baby food to ski-resort operations.

"Both businesses are reasonably attractive in that one has a major leading position and the other has a No. 2 position," said Arthur Cecil, an analyst with T. Rowe Price. The pet-food business has benefited from premium products with high margins, while Energizer batteries have held their own against Duracell, the market leader.

Rastol Purina, whose stock rose 87.5 cents Wednesday to close at \$99.8125, has been trading at about 28 times its earnings for the past four quarters, a premium to the Standard & Poor's 500-stock index, which is at roughly 25 times earnings.

But Colgate-Palmolive Co., maker of Hill's Science Diet pet food, is trading at 32 times earnings, and Gillette Co., the parent of Duracell, is trading at 40 times earnings. Both Colgate-Palmolive and Gillette have a wide variety of products, making it difficult to conclude exactly what kind of premium Rastol Purina's businesses could fetch.

But a split would probably be welcomed by shareholders. Over the past five years, Rastol Purina's stock has risen 127 percent, but that trails the 135 percent gain by the S&P 500.

Most recently, its stock has been buffeted by questions about whether Asia's troubles will depress profits. Rastol Purina has about half of the battery market in Asia, and its sales there account for about 12 percent of its revenue and 14 percent of its profit.

Rastol Purina warned investors in a recent regulatory filing that it expected weakened Asian markets to have a significant negative impact on future earnings. The company reported a 20 percent increase in earnings from continuing operations for the quarter ended in December.

The company also has shown signs of changing its insular culture. Executives have agreed to answer investor questions at a conference of New York consumer-stock analysts this week.

"I think Rastol is transforming from the Bill Stirtz era," said John McMillin, who follows the company for Prudential Securities, "even though I get the feeling that Stirtz is still controlling the strings to some extent."

Seoul Stocks Get a Lift From S&P

Ratings Concern's Upgrading Follows an IMF Vote of Confidence

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

NEW YORK — Standard & Poor's Corp. upgraded South Korea's foreign and local currency ratings Wednesday to reflect what it said was progress in implementing economic reform.

The move came a day after the International Monetary Fund gave Seoul a good report card on its reform efforts.

The votes of confidence helped lift the benchmark Kospi stock index 3.39 percent, to 487.73 points. But the country's currency still fell, as the dollar rose to 1,688 won from 1,620.5 won the day before. Traders said concerns about Asia's financial crisis were keeping the outlook uncertain for the won. Indonesia's troubles have been a drag on the won in recent days.

"Korean markets — not the stock market — see the difficulties ahead, and

that's why the won has been weakening," said Henry Morris, a veteran securities analyst in Seoul. "There is a realization that economic recovery is going to take a long time to sort out."

The International Monetary Fund gave South Korea good marks Tuesday in Washington at its first quarterly review of the country's progress under the IMF rescue program.

The Fund's board of directors voted to immediately release another \$2 billion to South Korea, bringing the total aid loans released to Seoul to date by the IMF to \$15 billion.

The board expressed approval of steps Seoul has taken so far to bolster its struggling economy, an IMF official said.

The IMF in December arranged a record \$58.35 billion bailout of South Korea. Of the total, the IMF pledged

\$21 billion, with roughly \$37.35 billion in loans to come from the Asia Development Bank, the World Bank and national lenders.

South Korea's economic growth in 1998 will be 1 percent, according to revised macroeconomic targets released in the quarterly review. (AFP Reuters)

Seoul to Cut Civil Service Jobs

A South Korean committee said the new government of President-elect Kim Dae Jung planned to trim the civil service by nearly 11 percent over the next three years, Reuters reported from Seoul.

It said 17,612 jobs out of a total of 161,855 would go. The cuts would not include teachers and police personnel. Those to be dismissed included 90,501 public servants in main state offices and 71,354 postal and railroad workers.

It's the Olympics for Marketing, Too

Nagano Seeks to Make Its Commercialism More Tidy Than Atlanta's

By Ted Anthony
The Associated Press

NAGANO, Japan — The bookstore clerk was polite but adamant.

Yes, there was an American Express card logo on the front window. Yes, he usually accepted American Express. But Visa was an official Olympic sponsor, and trafficking in AmEx-charged books during these weeks simply would not do.

An extreme example, yes. But it speaks to the marketing philosophy behind the 1998 Winter Olympics.

The credo appears to be: No sponsor shall go unnoticed, no sponsor's logo unrecognized, no sponsor's product unsampled by the human hordes who have converged upon Nagano.

These Olympics have reflected the Japanese corporate aesthetic — all-encompassing but organized, no unlicensed renegades running rampant and a marketing philosophy pegged to huge corporations and some of the world's most recognizable logos.

"We want to be simple, but effective," said Ko Yamaguchi, the National Olympic Organizing Committee chief spokesman.

Effective, undoubtedly. But simple?

The reality of marketing, sponsorship and advertising in Nagano is an intricate blend of corporate goals, Olympic ideals and, above all, a desire to avoid a repeat performance of the 1996 Games in Atlanta.

On one hand, it is impossible to spend an hour in Nagano without being besieged by the byproducts of \$212 million worth of sponsorship. It is commercialism writ humongous.

Giant corporate signs adorn walls, buildings, buses. IBM's "Info '98" terminals connect journalists, athletes and spectators to crucial Olympic data. Coca-Cola is distributing free drinks all over town. McDonald's boasted this morning that it has served 75,000 Big Macs in the Olympic Village and the main press center alone.

Mizuno, Kodak and Kirin Beer have opened logo-adorned pavilions near the train station; Kodak is handing out 126,000 rolls of film to photojournalists. Amway and UPS are trying to make major international inroads.

Yet neither is this Atlanta. There, thickets of street vendors — hawking anything from \$3 bottles of water to purple cotton candy to an abundance of fake Olympic merchandise — drew complaints of tawdriness and annoyed

fans, sponsors and officials all the way up to the International Olympic Committee chief, Juan Antonio Samaranch.

It was a message Nagano apparently heard.

"In Atlanta, you felt everyone was looking to make a dollar — from street vendors to city government to the organizing committee," said David D'Alessandro, president of John Hancock Mutual Life Insurance Co., an Olympics "Worldwide Partner."

"Here, you feel these people are trying to be your hosts," D'Alessandro said. "Nagano is bending over backwards to be the anti-Atlanta."

The difference may simply be in scope, though, because the Olympics, virtually everyone agrees, would be in real financial trouble without its major sponsors.

Though few independent hawkers besides pin sellers and ticket scalpers are working Nagano's streets, 11 companies, including Coca-Cola, Visa, McDonald's and IBM, are "Worldwide Partners" with marketing rights for one Summer Olympics and a Winter Olympics. Eight more, including Mizuno, Seiko, Kirin, Toyota and Am-

See SPONSORS, Page 18

On Thursday, April 30, 1998,
to mark the 50th anniversary of the independence of the State of
Israel, the International Herald Tribune
will publish a Special Report on

ISRAEL at 50

BY THE TIME people or nations reach the age of 50, there is usually a sense of certainty about them; they have an image of themselves as mature, established, maybe even comfortable. But Israel is very much still a work in progress; a country of extraordinary achievements and unresolved problems; a tiny country that has nevertheless held the world's center stage for all of its turbulent childhood, adolescence and now adulthood.

To take the measure of Israel as it turns 50, the IHT has assembled a distinguished group of journalists, historians and politicians.

Glenn Frankel, the Pulitzer-Prize winning Washington Post correspondent and author of "Beyond the Promised Land," will provide an overview assessment of how much progress Israel has made in resolving the internal contradictions and external challenges that have confronted, and still confront, the Jewish state.

Tom Segev, the Israeli historian, journalist and author of the widely acclaimed history "The Seventh Million," will scan the record of these past 50 years, examining the creation and evolution of the country's identity, the role of Zionism, the conflicts and quests for peace with the Arabs within and outside Israel's borders.

Zeev Chafets, the novelist and popular columnist for the Jerusalem Report, will provide a glimpse into daily life in Israel today.

Joseph Joffe, the columnist and Editorial Page Editor of the Sueddeutsche Zeitung, and John Goshko, the United Nations correspondent of The Washington Post, will take a look at two of Israel's closest and most interesting relationships; one with Germany and the other with America's Jewish community.

Joseph Fitchett, the IHT's political and security correspondent, will evaluate the regional balance of power in the Middle East and how that might shape Israel's future.

Dr. Sari Nusseibeh, the well-known Arab scholar and author, and president of the Al-Quds University in East Jerusalem, will write about life today and hopes for tomorrow for Palestinians in Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Neal Sandler, an economic correspondent, will examine Israel's evolution from low-tech to high-technology center, looking at the state of its high-tech industries and their overall impact on the economy.

For more information about advertising in this Special Report, please contact Bill Mahder in Paris at (33-1) 41 43 93 78 or fax (33-1) 41 43 92 13 or e-mail: supplements@iht.com.

Herald Tribune

THE WORLD'S DAILY NEWSPAPER

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CURRENCY & INTEREST RATES

Cross Rates									
	US	UK	FR	DM	JP	CHF	SEK	YEN	Other
American	1.0000	0.7564	0.6563	0.6366	110.34	0.6936	136.76	1.0000	
British	1.3244	1.0000	0.8756	0.8463	145.36	0.9375	183.90	1.3244	
French	1.5436	1.1547	1.0000	0.9360	163.63	1.0636	203.71	1.5436	
German	1.5636	1.1747	1.0636	1.0000	163.63	1.0836	203.71	1.5636	
Japanese	0.0091	0.0069	0.0061	0.0061	1.0000	0.0072	1.0000	0.0091	
Swedish	0.0073	0.0054	0.0048	0.0048	0.0054	1.0000	1.0000	0.0073	
Yen	110.34	145.36	163.63	163.63	1.0000	1.0636	203.71	1.0000	
Other									
Swiss	0.6936	0.9375	1.0636	1.0836	0.0072	1.0000	1.0000	0.6936	
SEK	136.76	183.90	203.71	203.71	1.0000	1.0636	1.0000	136.76	
YEN	1.0000	1.3244	1.5436	1.5636	0.0091	0.0073	1.0000	1.0000	
Other									
US	1.0000	0.7564	0.6563	0.6366	110.34	0.6936	136.76	1.0000	
UK	0.7564	1.0000	0.8756	0.8463	145.36	0.9375	183.90	0.7564	
FR	0.6563	0.8756	1.0000	0.9360	163.63	1.0636	203.71	0.6563	
DM	0.6366	0.8463	0.9360	1.0000	163.63	1.0836	203.71	0.6366	
JP	110.34	145.36	163.63	163.63	1.0000	1.0636	203.71	110.34	
CHF	0.6936	0.9375	1.0636	1.0836	0.0072	1.0000	1.0000	0.6936	
SEK	136.76	183.90	203.71	203.71	1.0000	1.0636	1.0000	136.76	
YEN	1.0000	1.3244	1.5436	1.5636	0.0091	0.0073	1.0000	1.0000	
Other									
US	1.0000	0.7564	0.6563	0.6366	110.34	0.6936	136.76	1.0000	
UK	0.7564	1.0000	0.8756	0.8463	145.36	0.9375	183.90	0.7564	
FR	0.6563	0.8756	1.0000	0.9360	163.63	1.0636	203.71	0.6563	
DM	0.6366	0.8463	0.9360	1.0000	163.63	1.0836	203.71	0.6366	
JP	110.34	145.36	163.63	163.63	1.0000	1.0636	203.71	110.34	
CHF	0.6936	0.9375	1.0636	1.0836	0.0072	1.0000	1.0000	0.6936	
SEK	136.76	183.90	203.71	203.71	1.0000	1.0636	1.0000	136.76	
YEN	1.0000	1.3244	1.5436	1.5636	0.0091	0.0073	1.0000	1.0000	
Other									
US	1.0000	0.7564	0.6563	0.6366	110.34	0.6936	136.76	1.0000	
UK	0.7564	1.0000	0.8756	0.8463	145.36	0.9375	183.90	0.7564	
FR	0.6563	0.8756	1.0000	0.9360	163.63	1.0636	203.71	0.6563	
DM	0.6366	0.8463	0.9360	1.0000	163.63	1.0836	203.71	0.6366	
JP	110.34	145.36	163.63	163.63	1.0000	1.0636	203.71	110.34	
CHF	0.6936	0.9375	1.0636	1.0836	0.0072	1.0000	1.0000	0.6936	
SEK	136.76	183.90	203.71	203.71	1.0000	1.0636	1.0000	136.76	
YEN	1.0000	1.3244	1.5436	1.5636	0.0091	0.0073	1.0000	1.0000	
Other									
US	1.0000	0.7564	0.6563	0.6366	110.34	0.6936	136.76	1.0000	
UK	0.7564	1.0000	0.8756	0.8463	145.36	0.9375	183.90	0.7564	
FR	0.6563	0.8756	1.0000	0.9360	163.63	1.0636	203.71	0.6563	
DM	0.6366	0.8463	0.9360	1.0000	163.63	1.0836	203.71	0.6366	
JP	110.34	145.36	163.63	163.63	1.0000	1.0636	203.71	110.34	
CHF	0.6936	0.9375	1.0636	1.0836	0.0072	1.0000	1.0000	0.6936	
SEK	136.76	183.90	203.71	203.71	1.0000	1.0636	1.0000	136.76	
YEN	1.0000	1.3244	1.5436	1.5636	0.0091	0.0073	1.0000	1.0000	
Other									

Source: IMF Bank (London), Euro Investment Bank (Brussels), Banca Commerciale Italiana (Milan), Banque de France (Paris), Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi (Tokyo), Royal Bank of Canada (Toronto), IMF (SDR). Other data from the Associated Press, Bloomberg and Reuters.

Steady Outlook for Profits Fuels Stocks

"People are paying up for stocks that you can feel are steady and dependable for earnings this year," said George Wild, director of research at Heartland Capital Management in Indianapolis.

The Dow Jones Industrial average rose 32.54 points to close at 8,451.06. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 9.29 to 1,032.05, led by drugmakers and credit-card companies. The Nasdaq composite index rose 12.22 to 1,715.63.

Rapids, Michigan, originally expected to sell the shares for \$23 to \$25 each.

Nike Class B shares rose 1/4 to 44 1/2, amid rumors that Warren Buffett, Berkshire Hathaway Inc. was buying more stock in the sneaker and apparel maker. Berkshire Hathaway already

Flat Interest

Despite the increase in bond yields, banks with credit-card businesses gained on expectations that lower interest rates would ease concerns that consumers might fall behind in their payments.

Sears Roebuck, for one, is not seeing the benefits of lower rates. The retailer said its credit-card profit would decline 20 percent in 1998 because more customers were falling behind on payments. The business accounts for half of Sears' annual profit. Sears shares rose 1 7/16 to 55 3/4.

Hewlett-Packard rose 1½ to 63½ percent, although the company said first-quarter net income rose less than expected as falling prices for printers cut profit from strong sales of personal computers.

Xenova rose after the London-based pharmaceutical group formed an alliance with Eli Lilly to develop a blood-clot-inhibiting drug suitable for chronic use. Xenova and Meta-Xen, its majority-owned U.S. unit, will each receive as much as \$35 million in license fees and research funding. (Bloomberg, AP)

WASHINGTON — A steep de-

The producer-price index, which measures prices before they reach the consumer, was held down by a 3.7 percent fall in energy prices, the

at DKB International. "But I wouldn't push the dollar higher ahead of the G-7."

"The dollar is well underpinned," said Jeremy Stretch of NatWest Markets, "with the U.S. economy still going strong, while Germany isn't performing well, and export growth isn't expected to feed through into the domestic economy."

U.S. economy is flooded with Asian imports made cheaper by steep declines in Asian currencies.

been targeting the honest growth opportunities," said Richard McGinn, the company's chief executive, who succeeded Henry Schacht as chairman Wednesday.

Mr. Schacht, who was hired by AT&T to lead Lucent after the spin-off, will be chairman of the investment fund. John Hanley, Lucent's vice president in charge of strategy, will be managing general partner.

(Bloomberg, Reuters)

Bloomberg News
NEW YORK — The dollar fell from \$1.6330 to \$1.6320 francs. The pound rose to \$1.6380 from \$1.6330.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

stop the yen from extending the weeklong slide that had weakened it by nearly 3 percent.

In Japan, growing doubts that a government package of economic measures to be released Friday would lift the country out of a seven-

2-for-1 and Rail

After April 1, Lucent will pay quarterly dividends of 4 cents a share, compared with 7.5 cents before the split.

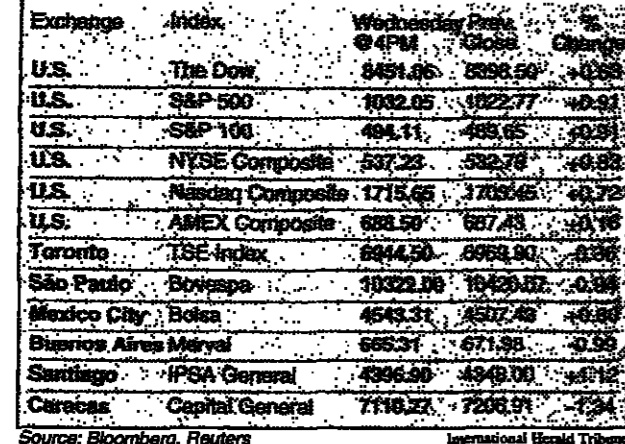
Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

SECAUCUS, N. J.—Lucent Technologies Inc. will pay quarterly dividends of 4 cents a share starting

Lucent's stock, the second most widely held stock in the United States after AT&T Corp., is splitting for the first time since the phone-equipment maker's record-setting initial public

Lucent has rewarded investors with seven quarters of record revenue and profit that has topped expectations since its April 1996 spin-off. It is betting that the new fund

Investor's America



● **Limited Inc.** will close 200 Limited, Lerner, Lane Bryant and Express stores through lease expirations during 1998 as it revamps its women's divisions. The retailer also plans to shed its 84 percent stake in Abercrombie & Fitch Co. through an exchange offer to shareholders.

• **Campbell Soup Co.** said it would sell its can-making business to Silgan Holdings Inc. for \$125 million, increase the target for its cost-cutting program to \$150 million from \$100 million, and take an unspecified charge in its third quarter as it tightened its focus on its core soups, cookies and crackers businesses.

• **Dart Group Corp.** bought back shares held by Ronald Haft, a member of the company's founding family, ended its dual-class common stock structure and declared a shareholder

Visa International's CEO to Retire

Blomberg News
SAN FRANCISCO — Visa International Inc. said Wednesday that its president and chief executive, Edmund Jensen, would retire at the end of the year to focus on business ventures.

Mr. Jensen, 60, headed the largest bank-card group for four years, after serving as a board member. Mr. Jensen and Peter Ellwood, the board chairman, will search for a replacement.

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close

The 300 most traded stocks of the day,
up to the closing on Wall Street.

The Associated Press.

Stock	Sales	High	Low	Lastest	Change
Alexandria	792	10 1/8	9 1/2	10 1/8	+ 1/8
Amoco	162	58 1/4	57 1/4	58 1/4	+ 1/4
Boeing	11	18 1/4	18 1/4	18 1/4	- 1/4
Caterpillar	137	7 1/4	7 1/4	7 1/4	+ 1/4
Dynegy	128	4 1/4	3 3/4	4 1/4	- 1/4
Enbridge	141	8 1/4	8 1/4	8 1/4	- 1/4

Stocks	Sales	High	Low	Latest	Change
ABC	100	10.50	10.20	10.30	+0.10
DEF	200	20.00	19.50	19.80	-0.20
GHI	150	15.00	14.80	14.90	-0.10
JKL	300	30.00	29.50	29.80	-0.20
MNO	120	12.00	11.80	11.90	-0.10
PQR	250	25.00	24.50	24.80	-0.20
STU	180	18.00	17.50	17.80	-0.20
VWX	220	22.00	21.50	21.80	-0.20
YZA	160	16.00	15.50	15.80	-0.20
BCD	280	28.00	27.50	27.80	-0.20
EFG	140	14.00	13.80	13.90	-0.10
HIJ	320	32.00	31.50	31.80	-0.20
KLM	110	11.00	10.80	10.90	-0.10
NOP	260	26.00	25.50	25.80	-0.20
QRS	190	19.00	18.50	18.80	-0.20
TUV	230	23.00	22.50	22.80	-0.20
WXY	170	17.00	16.50	16.80	-0.20
ZAB	210	21.00	20.50	20.80	-0.20
ACD	150	15.00	14.80	14.90	-0.10
BEF	290	29.00	28.50	28.80	-0.20
CGH	130	13.00	12.80	12.90	-0.10
DIJ	310	31.00	30.50	30.80	-0.20
EKL	110	11.00	10.80	10.90	-0.10
FMN	270	27.00	26.50	26.80	-0.20
GOP	180	18.00	17.50	17.80	-0.20
HQR	240	24.00	23.50	23.80	-0.20
IST	160	16.00	15.50	15.80	-0.20
JTU	300	30.00	29.50	29.80	-0.20
KVW	120	12.00	11.80	11.90	-0.10
LYZ	260	26.00	25.50	25.80	-0.20
MAB	190	19.00	18.50	18.80	-0.20
NCD	230	23.00	22.50	22.80	-0.20
OEF	170	17.00	16.50	16.80	-0.20
PGH	210	21.00	20.50	20.80	-0.20
QIJ	150	15.00	14.80	14.90	-0.10
RKL	290	29.00	28.50	28.80	-0.20
STN	130	13.00	12.80	12.90	-0.10
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DEF	180	18.00	17.50	17.80	-0.20
GHI	320	32.00	31.50	31.80	-0.20
JKL	140	14.00	13.80	13.90	-0.10
MNO	260	26.00	25.50	25.80	-0.20
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Indexes Most Actives

Dow Jones						NYSE					
Index	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Index	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Transp	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Comp	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Chem	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Metals	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Energy	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Health	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Telecom	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Real Estate	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Utilities	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Financial	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Insurance	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Government	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Foreign	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Commodities	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Options	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
ETFs	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
SP 500	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
SP 100	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Standard & Poors						NYSE					
Index	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Index	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Transp	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Comp	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Chem	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Metals	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Energy	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Health	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Telecom	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Real Estate	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Utilities	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Financial	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Insurance	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Government	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Foreign	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Commodities	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
Options	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
ETFs	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
SP 500	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
SP 100	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	NYSE	122656	81 1/4	29 1/2	29	68
NYSE						Nasdaq					
Index	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Index	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Transp	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Comp	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Chem	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Metals	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Energy	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Health	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Telecom	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Real Estate	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Utilities	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Financial	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Insurance	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Government	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Foreign	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Commodities	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Options	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
ETFs	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
SP 500	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
SP 100	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Nasdaq	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
AMEX						AMEX					
Index	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Index	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Transp	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Comp	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Chem	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Metals	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Energy	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Health	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Telecom	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Real Estate	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Utilities	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Financial	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Insurance	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Government	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Foreign	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Commodities	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Options	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
ETFs	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
SP 500	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
SP 100	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	AMEX	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Dow Jones Bond						Dow Jones Bond					
Index	Open	High	Low	Last	Chg.	Index	Vol.	High	Low	Last	Chg.
Indus	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Transp	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Comp	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Chem	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Metals	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Energy	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Health	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Telecom	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Real Estate	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Utilities	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Financial	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Insurance	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Government	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Foreign	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Commodities	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
Options	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
ETFs	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36	Dow Jones Bond	16427	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2	16 1/2
SP 500	8273.46	8431.00	8301.85	8401.84	+12.36						

Feb. 18, 1998	High	Low	Latest	Cage	Opint	High	Low	Latest	Chgr
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High Low Latest Chge Opnt					
Grains					
CORN (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. cents per bushel					
Mar 78	26 1/2	26 1/4	26 1/4	+1	108,815
Apr 78	26 1/2	26 1/4	26 1/4	0	55,719
May 78	26 1/2	26 1/4	26 1/4	0	55,719
Jun 78	26 1/2	26 1/4	26 1/4	0	55,719
Jul 78	26 1/2	26 1/4	26 1/4	0	55,719
Aug 78	26 1/2	26 1/4	26 1/4	0	55,719
Sep 78	26 1/2	26 1/4	26 1/4	0	55,719
Oct 78	26 1/2	26 1/4	26 1/4	0	55,719
Nov 78	26 1/2	26 1/4	26 1/4	0	55,719
Dec 78	26 1/2	26 1/4	26 1/4	0	55,719
Est. sales 40,000 Tons sales 72,000					
Tues open 34.625, up 132					
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)					
100 lbs. cents per lb.					
Mar 78	18 3/4	18 3/4	18 3/4	+10	33,444
Apr 78	18 3/4	18 3/4	18 3/4	0	33,444
May 78	18 3/4	18 3/4	18 3/4	0	33,444
Jun 78	18 3/4	18 3/4	18 3/4	0	33,444
Jul 78	18 3/4	18 3/4	18 3/4	0	33,444
Aug 78	18 3/4	18 3/4	18 3/4	0	33,444
Sep 78	18 3/4	18 3/4	18 3/4	0	33,444
Oct 78	18 3/4	18 3/4	18 3/4	0	33,444
Nov 78	18 3/4	18 3/4	18 3/4	0	33,444
Dec 78	18 3/4	18 3/4	18 3/4	0	33,444
Est. sales 40,000 Tons sales 45,457					
Tues open 17.244, up 25.45					
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)					
42,000 lbs. cents per lb.					
Mar 78	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	+1	33,444
Apr 78	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	0	33,444
May 78	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	0	33,444
Jun 78	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	0	33,444
Jul 78	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	0	33,444
Aug 78	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	0	33,444
Sep 78	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	0	33,444
Oct 78	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	0	33,444
Nov 78	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	0	33,444
Dec 78	27 1/2	27 1/2	27 1/2	0	33,444
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHEAT (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	+1	24,491
Apr 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
May 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jun 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jul 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Aug 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Sep 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Oct 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Nov 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Dec 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHOLEST (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	+1	24,491
Apr 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
May 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jun 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jul 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Aug 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Sep 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Oct 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Nov 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Dec 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHOLEST (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	+1	24,491
Apr 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
May 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jun 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jul 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Aug 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Sep 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Oct 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Nov 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Dec 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHOLEST (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	+1	24,491
Apr 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
May 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jun 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jul 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Aug 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Sep 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Oct 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Nov 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Dec 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHOLEST (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	+1	24,491
Apr 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
May 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jun 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jul 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Aug 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Sep 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Oct 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Nov 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Dec 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHOLEST (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	+1	24,491
Apr 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
May 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jun 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jul 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Aug 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Sep 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Oct 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Nov 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Dec 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHOLEST (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	+1	24,491
Apr 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
May 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jun 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jul 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Aug 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Sep 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Oct 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Nov 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Dec 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHOLEST (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	+1	24,491
Apr 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
May 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jun 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jul 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Aug 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Sep 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Oct 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Nov 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Dec 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHOLEST (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	+1	24,491
Apr 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
May 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jun 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jul 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Aug 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Sep 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Oct 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Nov 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Dec 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHOLEST (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	+1	24,491
Apr 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
May 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jun 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jul 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Aug 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Sep 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Oct 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Nov 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Dec 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHOLEST (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	+1	24,491
Apr 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
May 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jun 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Jul 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Aug 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Sep 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Oct 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Nov 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Dec 78	67 1/2	66 1/2	67 1/2	0	24,491
Est. sales 38,000 Tons sales 33,905					
Tues open 130.700, up 112					
WHOLEST (CBOT)					
5,000 bu. minimum; cents per bushel					
Mar 78	67 1/2	66 1			

Int High Low Latest Chge

Dec 18	95.84	95.78	96.81	Unc'd.
Nov 18	95.75	95.75	96.80	Unc'd.
Oct 19	95.71	95.67	95.99	+0.99
Sept 19	95.75	95.75	95.75	0.00
Pw. open	95.72	95.62	95.70	17.40

Industrials

COTTON (20 LBS)				
Dec 18	67.15	67.15	68.42	-0.51
Nov 18	67.05	66.95	68.43	-0.51
Oct 19	67.15	66.39	66.43	-0.41
Nov 18	67.26	67.10	67.10	-0.26
Dec 18	71.25	71.25	71.25	-0.26
Nov 18	71.25	71.25	71.25	0.00
Oct 19	71.25	71.25	71.25	0.00
Pw. open	71.25	71.25	71.25	0.00

HEATING OIL (MINNER)

42,000 gals. 42,000 gals.				
Dec 18	46.35	46.35	46.34	-0.16
Nov 18	46.35	46.35	46.34	-0.16
Oct 19	46.35	46.35	46.34	-0.16
Nov 18	46.35	46.35	46.35	0.00
Oct 19	46.35	46.35	46.35	0.00
Nov 18	46.35	46.35	46.35	0.00
Oct 19	46.35	46.35	46.35	0.00
Nov 18	46.35	46.35	46.35	0.00
Oct 19	46.35	46.35	46.35	0.00
Pw. open	46.35	46.35	46.35	0.00

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 30,766
Tues open 46.35, Tues close 46.35

LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (MINNER)

1,000 bbls. 42,000 gals.				
Dec 18	16.35	16.35	16.35	-0.57
Nov 18	16.35	16.35	16.35	-0.57
Oct 19	16.35	16.35	16.35	-0.57
Nov 18	16.35	16.35	16.35	-0.57
Oct 19	16.35	16.35	16.35	-0.57
Nov 18	16.35	16.35	16.35	-0.57
Oct 19	16.35	16.35	16.35	-0.57
Nov 18	16.35	16.35	16.35	-0.57
Oct 19	16.35	16.35	16.35	-0.57
Pw. open	16.35	16.35	16.35	-0.57

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 123,456
Tues open 16.35, Tues close 16.35

NATURAL GAS (MINNER)

100,000 cu. ft. 100,000 cu. ft.				
Dec 18	2.35	2.35	2.35	+0.074
Nov 18	2.35	2.35	2.35	+0.074
Oct 19	2.35	2.35	2.35	+0.074
Nov 18	2.35	2.35	2.35	+0.074
Oct 19	2.35	2.35	2.35	+0.074
Nov 18	2.35	2.35	2.35	+0.074
Oct 19	2.35	2.35	2.35	+0.074
Nov 18	2.35	2.35	2.35	+0.074
Oct 19	2.35	2.35	2.35	+0.074
Pw. open	2.35	2.35	2.35	+0.074

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 41,747
Tues open 2.35, Tues close 2.35

UNLEADED GASOLINE (MINNER)

42,000 gals. 42,000 gals.				
Dec 18	31.20	31.20	31.20	+1.07
Nov 18	31.20	31.20	31.20	+1.07
Oct 19	31.20	31.20	31.20	+1.07
Nov 18	31.20	31.20	31.20	+1.07
Oct 19	31.20	31.20	31.20	+1.07
Nov 18	31.20	31.20	31.20	+1.07
Oct 19	31.20	31.20	31.20	+1.07
Nov 18	31.20	31.20	31.20	+1.07
Oct 19	31.20	31.20	31.20	+1.07
Pw. open	31.20	31.20	31.20	+1.07

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 112,753
Tues open 31.20, Tues close 31.20

GASOL (LPS)

U.S. dollars per metric ton				
Dec 18	12.75	12.75	12.75	-0.05
Nov 18	12.75	12.75	12.75	-0.05
Oct 19	12.75	12.75	12.75	-0.05
Nov 18	12.75	12.75	12.75	-0.05
Oct 19	12.75	12.75	12.75	-0.05
Nov 18	12.75	12.75	12.75	-0.05
Oct 19	12.75	12.75	12.75	-0.05
Nov 18	12.75	12.75	12.75	-0.05
Oct 19	12.75	12.75	12.75	-0.05
Pw. open	12.75	12.75	12.75	-0.05

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 25,451
Tues open 12.75, Tues close 12.75

BRENT OIL (LPS)

U.S. dollars per barrel				
Dec 18	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05
Nov 18	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05
Oct 19	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05
Nov 18	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05
Oct 19	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05
Nov 18	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05
Oct 19	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05
Nov 18	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05
Oct 19	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05
Pw. open	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 112,753
Tues open 15.15, Tues close 15.15

Stock Indexes

SP COMPOSITE INDEX

Dec 18	1035.40	1028.00	1034.40	+0.80	28.00
Nov 18	1044.00	1035.90	1040.20	+0.70	15.00
Oct 19	1044.00	1035.90	1040.20	+0.70	15.00
Pw. open	1044.00	1035.90	1040.20	+0.70	15.00

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 89,977
Tues open 1044.00, Tues close 1044.00

NYSE 100 (LPS)

Dec 18	574.00	569.00	570.00	+0.40	0.00
Nov 18	574.00	569.00	570.00	+0.40	0.00
Oct 19	574.00	569.00	570.00	+0.40	0.00
Pw. open	574.00	569.00	570.00	+0.40	0.00

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 89,977
Tues open 574.00, Tues close 574.00

CAC 40 (MATIF)

Dec 18	3371.50	3362.00	3368.00	+0.50	0.00
Nov 18	3371.50	3362.00	3368.00	+0.50	0.00
Oct 19	3371.50	3362.00	3368.00	+0.50	0.00
Pw. open	3371.50	3362.00	3368.00	+0.50	0.00

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 89,977
Tues open 3371.50, Tues close 3371.50

Commodity Indexes

Gold

Dec 18	1441.90	1441.90	1441.90	0.00	0.00
Nov 18	1441.90	1441.90	1441.90	0.00	0.00
Oct 19	1441.90	1441.90	1441.90	0.00	0.00
Pw. open	1441.90	1441.90	1441.90	0.00	0.00

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 89,977
Tues open 1441.90, Tues close 1441.90

Oil

Dec 18	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05	0.00
Nov 18	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05	0.00
Oct 19	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05	0.00
Pw. open	15.15	15.15	15.15	+0.05	0.00

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 89,977
Tues open 15.15, Tues close 15.15

Wheat

Dec 18	1.44	1.44	1.44	0.00	0.00
Nov 18	1.44	1.44	1.44	0.00	0.00
Oct 19	1.44	1.44	1.44	0.00	0.00
Pw. open	1.44	1.44	1.44	0.00	0.00

Est. index N.Y. Times sales 89,977
Tues open 1.44, Tues close 1.44

Residential Real Estate

every Friday in The International

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 278: 1039-1044.

Low Inflation

Home-Building Thrives

...drop in price...
...the U.S. economy...
...the housing market...
...the construction industry...
...the economy...

U.K. Hoping to Build a Bridge for the G-7

By Tom Buckle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — International discussions about employment tend to degenerate quickly into shouting matches between British-American proponents of labor-market deregulation and continental European defenders of social cohesion.

Survey Shows Bearish Mood in Germany

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

FRANKFURT — Germany's Ifo Institute for Economic Research said Wednesday that its main business climate barometer fell in January, and analysts said the drop reflected continued mild concern about the crisis in Asia.

Spain: Europe's Biggest Job Creator

Reuters

MADRID — Spain created tens of thousands of jobs in the final quarter of last year, statistics released Wednesday showed, making it one of the best performers in Europe at battling high unemployment.

France Opens Bids for Insurer

Bloomberg News

PARIS — The government invited bids Wednesday for Groupe des Assurances Nationales SA, launching the sale of one of France's last state assets in the financial industry.

Failure to Win EU Approval Costs Samsung

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BRUSSELS — The European Commission fined Samsung Electronics Co. 33,000 European currency units (\$35,800) for failing to consult it before buying another company.

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX London FTSE 100 Index Paris CAC 40



Table with 3 columns: Exchange, Index, Wednesday Close, Thursday Change, % Change. Rows include Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, Helsinki, Oslo, London, Madrid, Milan, Paris, Stockholm, Vienna, Zurich.

World Stock Markets

Wednesday, Feb. 18
Prices in local currencies.

Table with multiple columns for various stock markets including Amsterdam, Bangkok, Bombay, Brussels, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Johannesburg, London, Manila, Mexico, Milan, Montreal, Oslo, Paris, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Singapore, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo, Toronto, Vienna, Wellington, Zurich, and Johannesburg.

U.K. Hoping to Build a Bridge for the G-7

By Tom Buckle
International Herald Tribune

LONDON — International discussions about employment tend to degenerate quickly into shouting matches between British-American proponents of labor-market deregulation and continental European defenders of social cohesion. The figures bolstered by the Reserve Bank would be a welcome sight for the Treasury.

Despite the fact that the economy has pulled out of the lowest levels since the early 1990s, inflation remains low. The Bank of England's policy of low interest rates has been well received.

Mr. Brown's willingness to bridge the divide this weekend between the two sides of the Atlantic, Britain, Germany, Italy, France, Canada and Japan, is a sign of the darker side of British employment record, as well as his ambitious plans to help the country's long-term unemployed.

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Survey Shows Bearish Mood in Germany

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

FRANKFURT — Germany's Ifo Institute for Economic Research said Wednesday that its main business climate barometer fell in January, and analysts said the drop reflected continued mild concern about the crisis in Asia.

Although economic turmoil in Asia would increasingly dampen export sales, German exports would continue to be the main engine of growth for the economy in the next few months, another report, from the DIW economics institute, said.

The DIW economics institute, said, "The export dynamic will exceed the development of domestic demand in coming months," the DIW said. "Risks might arise from the Asian crisis though."

Spain: Europe's Biggest Job Creator

Reuters

MADRID — Spain created tens of thousands of jobs in the final quarter of last year, statistics released Wednesday showed, making it one of the best performers in Europe at battling high unemployment.

More than 53,000 people found jobs in the fourth quarter of 1997, sharply higher than analysts' expectations of just 10,300. The jobs rate as measured by the National Statistics Office's population survey fell to 20.32 percent, from 20.55 percent in the previous quarter.

That was a better number than we were expecting," said Carmen Hermansanz, an economist at Merrill Lynch & Co. in Madrid. She added that Spain was "the country that created the most employment in Europe last year."

France Opens Bids for Insurer

Bloomberg News

PARIS — The government invited bids Wednesday for Groupe des Assurances Nationales SA, launching the sale of one of France's last state assets in the financial industry.

The Finance Ministry, which set a deadline for bids of May 7, said it would sell 87.1 percent of the company by the end of June, the deadline set by the European Union last year in return for approval of a rescue package for GAN, France's fifth-largest insurer. The rest will be offered to GAN employees and management, the ministry said.

Failure to Win EU Approval Costs Samsung

Compiled by Our Staff From Dispatches

BRUSSELS — The European Commission fined Samsung Electronics Co. 33,000 European currency units (\$35,800) for failing to consult it before buying another company.

The fine, the first time the executive body of the European Union has punished a company for failing to submit its plans for clearance in due time, was seen as a warning to companies not to ignore the EU's fair competition rules.

The penalty is relatively low because the South Korean company's infringement of EU laws appeared to be unintentional and Samsung had since cooperated with EU authorities, the commission said.

Investor's Europe

Frankfurt DAX London FTSE 100 Index Paris CAC 40

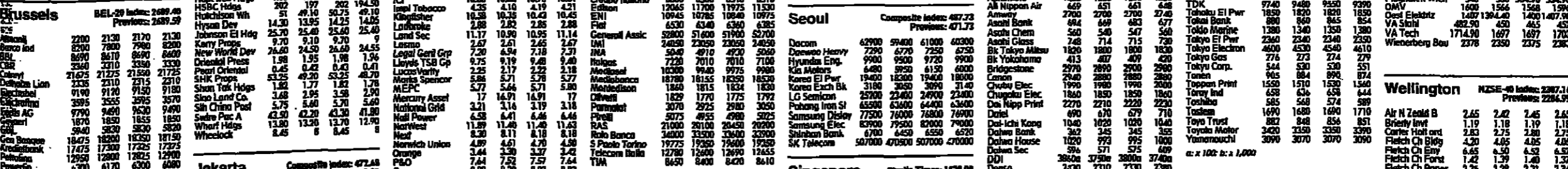


Table with 3 columns: Exchange, Index, Wednesday Close, Thursday Change, % Change. Rows include Amsterdam, Brussels, Frankfurt, Helsinki, Oslo, London, Madrid, Milan, Paris, Stockholm, Vienna, Zurich.

World Stock Markets

Wednesday, Feb. 18
Prices in local currencies.

Table with multiple columns for various stock markets including Amsterdam, Bangkok, Bombay, Brussels, Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Hong Kong, Jakarta, Johannesburg, London, Manila, Mexico, Milan, Montreal, Oslo, Paris, Sao Paulo, Seoul, Singapore, Stockholm, Sydney, Taipei, Tokyo, Toronto, Vienna, Wellington, Zurich, and Johannesburg.

NASDAQ

Wednesday's 4 P.M.
The 1,000 most traded National Market securities
in terms of dollar volume, updated twice a year.
The Associated Press.

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
IBM	3.00	4.2	15.5	105 1/4	104 3/4	105 1/4
Microsoft	0.50	3.8	18.5	54 1/4	53 3/4	54 1/4
Oracle	0.25	3.5	16.5	38 1/4	37 3/4	38 1/4
Sun	0.15	3.2	15.5	24 1/4	23 3/4	24 1/4
HP	0.10	3.0	14.5	18 1/4	17 3/4	18 1/4
Intel	0.05	2.8	13.5	14 1/4	13 3/4	14 1/4
Motorola	0.05	2.5	12.5	11 1/4	10 3/4	11 1/4
Verizon	0.05	2.2	11.5	9 1/4	8 3/4	9 1/4
AT&T	0.05	2.0	10.5	7 1/4	6 3/4	7 1/4
Comcast	0.05	1.8	9.5	5 1/4	4 3/4	5 1/4

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
Amazon	0.00	0.0	0.0	10 1/4	9 3/4	10 1/4
Yahoo	0.00	0.0	0.0	12 1/4	11 3/4	12 1/4
Google	0.00	0.0	0.0	15 1/4	14 3/4	15 1/4
Alibaba	0.00	0.0	0.0	18 1/4	17 3/4	18 1/4
Facebook	0.00	0.0	0.0	21 1/4	20 3/4	21 1/4
Twitter	0.00	0.0	0.0	24 1/4	23 3/4	24 1/4
LinkedIn	0.00	0.0	0.0	27 1/4	26 3/4	27 1/4
Slack	0.00	0.0	0.0	30 1/4	29 3/4	30 1/4
Zoom	0.00	0.0	0.0	33 1/4	32 3/4	33 1/4
Dropbox	0.00	0.0	0.0	36 1/4	35 3/4	36 1/4

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
Netflix	0.00	0.0	0.0	39 1/4	38 3/4	39 1/4
Spotify	0.00	0.0	0.0	42 1/4	41 3/4	42 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	45 1/4	44 3/4	45 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	48 1/4	47 3/4	48 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	51 1/4	50 3/4	51 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	54 1/4	53 3/4	54 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	57 1/4	56 3/4	57 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	60 1/4	59 3/4	60 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	63 1/4	62 3/4	63 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	66 1/4	65 3/4	66 1/4

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
Spotify	0.00	0.0	0.0	69 1/4	68 3/4	69 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	72 1/4	71 3/4	72 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	75 1/4	74 3/4	75 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	78 1/4	77 3/4	78 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	81 1/4	80 3/4	81 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	84 1/4	83 3/4	84 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	87 1/4	86 3/4	87 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	90 1/4	89 3/4	90 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	93 1/4	92 3/4	93 1/4

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
Spotify	0.00	0.0	0.0	96 1/4	95 3/4	96 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	99 1/4	98 3/4	99 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	102 1/4	101 3/4	102 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	105 1/4	104 3/4	105 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	108 1/4	107 3/4	108 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	111 1/4	110 3/4	111 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	114 1/4	113 3/4	114 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	117 1/4	116 3/4	117 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	120 1/4	119 3/4	120 1/4

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
Spotify	0.00	0.0	0.0	123 1/4	122 3/4	123 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	126 1/4	125 3/4	126 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	129 1/4	128 3/4	129 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	132 1/4	131 3/4	132 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	135 1/4	134 3/4	135 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	138 1/4	137 3/4	138 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	141 1/4	140 3/4	141 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	144 1/4	143 3/4	144 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	147 1/4	146 3/4	147 1/4

NYSE

Wednesday's 4 P.M. Close
(Continued)

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
IBM	3.00	4.2	15.5	105 1/4	104 3/4	105 1/4
Microsoft	0.50	3.8	18.5	54 1/4	53 3/4	54 1/4
Oracle	0.25	3.5	16.5	38 1/4	37 3/4	38 1/4
Sun	0.15	3.2	15.5	24 1/4	23 3/4	24 1/4
HP	0.10	3.0	14.5	18 1/4	17 3/4	18 1/4
Intel	0.05	2.8	13.5	14 1/4	13 3/4	14 1/4
Motorola	0.05	2.5	12.5	11 1/4	10 3/4	11 1/4
Verizon	0.05	2.2	11.5	9 1/4	8 3/4	9 1/4
AT&T	0.05	2.0	10.5	7 1/4	6 3/4	7 1/4
Comcast	0.05	1.8	9.5	5 1/4	4 3/4	5 1/4

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
Amazon	0.00	0.0	0.0	10 1/4	9 3/4	10 1/4
Yahoo	0.00	0.0	0.0	12 1/4	11 3/4	12 1/4
Google	0.00	0.0	0.0	15 1/4	14 3/4	15 1/4
Alibaba	0.00	0.0	0.0	18 1/4	17 3/4	18 1/4
Facebook	0.00	0.0	0.0	21 1/4	20 3/4	21 1/4
Twitter	0.00	0.0	0.0	24 1/4	23 3/4	24 1/4
LinkedIn	0.00	0.0	0.0	27 1/4	26 3/4	27 1/4
Slack	0.00	0.0	0.0	30 1/4	29 3/4	30 1/4
Zoom	0.00	0.0	0.0	33 1/4	32 3/4	33 1/4
Dropbox	0.00	0.0	0.0	36 1/4	35 3/4	36 1/4

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
Netflix	0.00	0.0	0.0	39 1/4	38 3/4	39 1/4
Spotify	0.00	0.0	0.0	42 1/4	41 3/4	42 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	45 1/4	44 3/4	45 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	48 1/4	47 3/4	48 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	51 1/4	50 3/4	51 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	54 1/4	53 3/4	54 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	57 1/4	56 3/4	57 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	60 1/4	59 3/4	60 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	63 1/4	62 3/4	63 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	66 1/4	65 3/4	66 1/4

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
Spotify	0.00	0.0	0.0	69 1/4	68 3/4	69 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	72 1/4	71 3/4	72 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	75 1/4	74 3/4	75 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	78 1/4	77 3/4	78 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	81 1/4	80 3/4	81 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	84 1/4	83 3/4	84 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	87 1/4	86 3/4	87 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	90 1/4	89 3/4	90 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	93 1/4	92 3/4	93 1/4

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
Spotify	0.00	0.0	0.0	96 1/4	95 3/4	96 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	99 1/4	98 3/4	99 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	102 1/4	101 3/4	102 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	105 1/4	104 3/4	105 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	108 1/4	107 3/4	108 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	111 1/4	110 3/4	111 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	114 1/4	113 3/4	114 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	117 1/4	116 3/4	117 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	120 1/4	119 3/4	120 1/4

Stock	Div	Yld	PE	High	Low	Close
Spotify	0.00	0.0	0.0	123 1/4	122 3/4	123 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	126 1/4	125 3/4	126 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	129 1/4	128 3/4	129 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	132 1/4	131 3/4	132 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	135 1/4	134 3/4	135 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	138 1/4	137 3/4	138 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	141 1/4	140 3/4	141 1/4
SoundCloud	0.00	0.0	0.0	144 1/4	143 3/4	144 1/4
Bandcamp	0.00	0.0	0.0	147 1/4	146 3/4	147 1/4

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February 18, 1998

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ASIA/PACIFIC

Singapore Liberalizes Its Financial Structure

Positioning Itself for Recovery in Region

SINGAPORE — Singapore adopted a series of financial changes Wednesday, including allowing more of its surplus funds to be placed in private hands, to try to reposition itself as a financial center in advance of the region's recovery from its currency turmoil.

The changes, presented by Lee Hsien Loong, a deputy prime minister, would also free all stock-brokerage rates within three years, deregulate the fledgling unit-trust industry and speed approval procedures for share offerings.

The measures are also aimed at letting the public "decide for themselves what they want to invest in and what risks to accept," the government said. Among the measures was a move to encourage government-linked corporations and statutory boards to borrow from Singapore's debt market, where there are no long-dated corporate bonds at present.

"It is not our intention to turn the financial sector upside down overnight," Mr. Lee said, but he said Singapore was laying a framework for regional business, which is expected to pick up again after economic problems caused by the currency crisis dissipate.

"We are doing this for the medium and long term," he said, insisting that Singapore would not compromise its standards of integrity and supervision in the deregulation process.

He said the government wanted to improve the financial sector within the existing structure.

"You have a working system, and you want to improve it," he said. "You can't liberalize overnight, but we can do it over time."

Analysts said the changes, nearly all adopted from recommendations by a top private-sector advisory panel, had largely been expected and were part of Singapore's effort to expand its range of financial products to keep pace with those offered by competitors such as Hong Kong.

"It's a positive development and geared for the long term, but we had expected the government to adopt these reforms," said John Doyle, financial analyst with Union Bank of Switzerland in Singapore.

Timothy Wong, head of research at Vickers Ballas, said: "The news is significant in that it is a step in the



HELLO, MOM! — A man using a Telstra Corp. pay phone in Sydney. Telstra's first-half profit soared to 1.61 billion Australian dollars (\$1.08 billion) from 742 million dollars.

right direction. But the near-term concern is still the regional crisis and its potential impact on corporate earnings."

Singapore is the least affected by the sharp erosion in the value of regional currencies against the U.S. dollar, which has slowed economic growth and caused neighboring nations to make changes in their economic and financial systems.

The prosperous city-state has billions of dollars in public-sector funds, including a huge pension system, available for investment, but the government has so far adopted a conservative investment policy.

Public-sector funds account for 5 percent, or 6.5 billion Singapore dollars (\$3.93 billion), of the 125 billion dollars of funds managed out of Singapore.

The advisory panel proposed that this be raised to 20 percent, but Mr. Lee said the ceiling was still being worked out. He also said that as part of reforms, Singaporeans should be able to use their savings in the state-run Central Provident Fund to buy securities listed on the stock exchange that are denominated in foreign currencies. (APF Reuters)

Sales Gains Abroad Lift Honda Profit

TOKYO — Honda Motor Co. said Wednesday that its group profit for the three months to December rose 5.3 percent to a quarterly record and said it expected another record performance for its full year ending in March, helped by strong sales in North America.

Honda said group net profit, or net profit at Honda and its units, rose to 65.20 billion yen (\$515 million) in the October-December period as sales in North America made up for a slump at home and in the rest of Asia. Group sales rose 16.6 percent to 1.55 trillion yen in the period, also a quarterly record.

On a pretax basis, Honda's group profit in the October-December quarter was 26 percent higher than a year earlier, as Honda had to make a hefty corporate tax payment for the last business year, when its profit more than tripled.

"The good result was primarily due to solid sales in the North American market," a Honda spokesman said. "We are quite optimistic about achieving our full-year earnings forecasts."

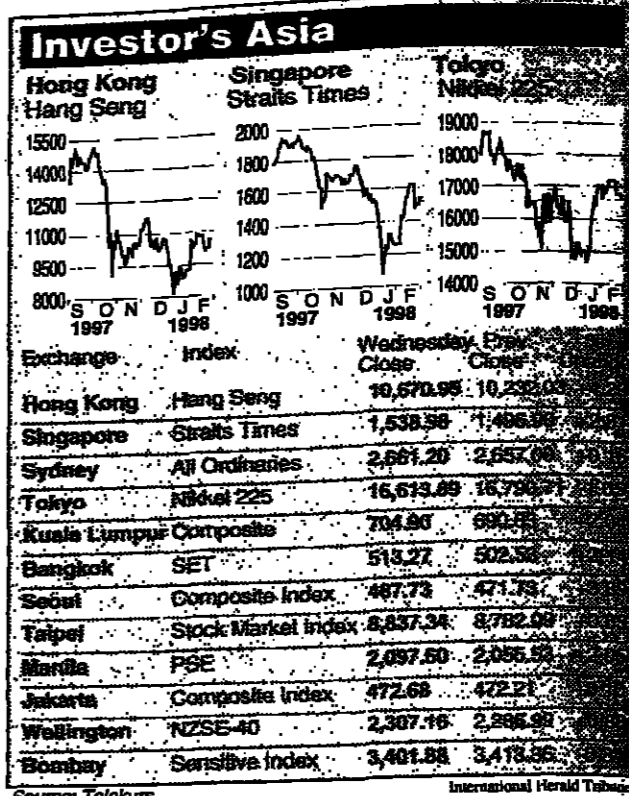
In November, Honda predicted its full-year group net profit would be 250 billion yen, surpassing its record annual profit of 221.17 billion yen the previous year.

Honda said its Accord model had good sales in North America after new models were introduced in September. The year's weakness, coupled with continued cost-cutting, contributed to Honda's earnings in the third quarter by making its products more competitive overseas.

The Honda spokesman shrugged off the possibility of any major damage to earnings from Asia's currency problems, which have already forced it to curb production in the region. "The Asian region accounted for only 2 percent to 3 percent of our total annual group sales," he said. "Given the limited scale, do not expect any major impact from this."

Takaki Nakanishi, an analyst at Merrill Lynch in Tokyo, said the North American vehicle market in general could suffer a slowdown in the next business year, with South Korea and some U.S. carmakers possibly ready to increase price competition in the market.

The earnings announcement came after the close of trading on the Tokyo stock market. Honda shares, regarded as a core blue-chip issue, closed at 4,530 yen, down 70.



Very briefly:

- Thailand's finance minister, Tarrin Nimmanahaeminda, said the government would unveil a three-year plan Tuesday to strengthen the country's banking and financial sector that would require financial institutions to adopt stricter reserve provisions and accounting practices.
- Australian dockworkers in Melbourne protesting the start-up of a nonunion stevedoring company returned to work as the maritime union planned its next move in the dispute.
- Ford Motor Co. applied to set up a 6.13 billion peso (\$153.4) car-assembly plant in the Philippines, a senior trade official said.
- Australian Consolidated Press, Kerry Packer's magazine unit, raised its holding in Vietnam Investment Review Ltd., publisher of the country's only foreign-owned English-language weekly newspaper, to 100 percent from 70 percent. Sources said the transaction involved a cancellation of debt and no cash.
- Edaran Otomobil Nasional Bhd.'s finance company, EON Finance Bhd., agreed to merge with Gadek Capital Bhd. in Malaysia's third finance-company merger in less than two months.
- South Korean prosecutors said the country's companies could lose 1.25 trillion won (\$771.4 million) in sales because of the illegal transfer of semiconductor technology to a Taiwanese company, Nan Ya Technology Corp.
- Daewoo Motor Corp. upheld its pledge to invest \$1.5 billion in Poland by 2001 despite economic problems in South Korea, a senior executive at the automaker's flagship Polish plant said.
- Fletcher Challenge Ltd., a New Zealand-based industrial, forestry and energy company, reported a 53.5 percent increase in its second-half profit, to 413 million New Zealand dollars (\$240.9 million).
- GE Capital Services plans to set up a joint venture with Toho Mutual Life Insurance Co. April 1 to sell life-insurance products in Japan.

Change of Outlook at Taiwan Bank

By Thomas Crampton
International Herald Tribune

New Chief Expected To Open Economy

BANGKOK — While Taiwan's central bank is issuing assurances that there will be a continuity of policy in its transition to a new governor, economists and bankers said Wednesday that the prime candidates to lead the institution were likely to speed opening of the island's economy.

The previous governor, Sheu Yuan-dong, whose conservative policies were credited with helping stabilize Taiwan through Asia's economic turmoil, was killed Monday in a plane crash at Taipei's Chiang Kai-shek Airport.

Taiwan's economy has resisted the collapse that has beset other countries in the region. On Wednesday, the government released quarterly growth statistics that outstripped all estimates.

The Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics reported that the economy grew 7.08

percent in the fourth quarter of 1997 compared with a year earlier, pushing full-year growth in 1997 to 6.81 percent. The chief of the directorate, Wei Duan, said the quarterly gain, the highest since a reading of 7.55 percent in 1991, came as consumer-price inflation for the year hit a 10-year low of 0.90 percent.

While analysts say economic policy will not change overnight, virtually all of the candidates likely to succeed Mr. Sheu as central bank governor are likely to pick up the pace of reform.

Mike Chang, senior vice president and general manager of international banking at Chang Hwa Commercial Bank, said: "Almost all the possible governors have studied abroad, and they all have very international outlooks. They are also all much younger than Mr. Sheu, so they will perhaps be more

active in the post and with liberalization."

While the new bank governor will be announced next week, people in Taiwan's financial community have narrowed down the list to a handful of candidates, with Paul Chiu, the reform-minded finance minister, as the leading contender.

Other possible candidates to serve as governor until 2000, when the current term runs out, include the central bank's deputy and acting governor, Patrick Liang; the chairman of the Bank of Taiwan, Lo Chitang; a minister without portfolio, Shirley Kuo, and the chairman of International Commercial Bank, Peng Fai-nan.

Despite being one of the world's top trading nations, Taiwan has a currency that cannot be freely exchanged, and its economy remains relatively closed to foreigners.

Liberalization moves could include lifting the 30 percent ceiling on foreign ownership of listed companies, issuing more licenses to



Paul Chiu, a reformist, is a top candidate as central bank head.

foreign commercial banks and securities companies, and allowing foreigners to invest more freely in bonds and commercial paper.

"Looming over all issues about liberalization is, of course, internationalizing the currency," said Francis Yu, director of SBC Warburg Dillon Read in Taiwan. "But I don't see any rush to change that."

SPONSORS: Corporate Goals vs. Olympic Ideals in Nagano

Continued from Page 13

way Japan, are "Gold Sponsors," giving them rights in Japan for the Nagano games only — and use of the Olympic rings in their advertising.

"Corporate sponsors help make the Olympics accessible to the world," said Scott McCune, director of worldwide sports for Coca-Cola, which began Olympic sponsorship in 1928 by sending the U.S. team to Amsterdam with some Coke.

A 1996 poll by The Associated Press, conducted just as the Atlanta Olympics began, found that 66 percent of Americans felt commercial participation was necessary; just 29 percent thought the Olympics had become too commercial. And 86 percent said a company's sponsorship has no bearing on their buying habits.

This year, though, has seen some interesting juxtapositions that are unlike Olympics past. At the opening ceremony, Samaranch wore a Mizuno coat in a forum that is traditionally logo-free. And CBS Sports' decision to wear jackets emblazoned with Nike's emblem had some Olympics watchers crying unethical.

"That told me that everything and everyone is for sale," said Susan Hofacre, head of the sports administration department at Robert Morris College in Pittsburgh.

"I've gotten used to seeing it all over athletes," she said. "I'm used to skiers holding their skis so you can see the 'Rossignol.' But when I see sports announcers and the head of the IOC doing that, it becomes jarring."

Though not an Olympic sponsor, Nike is a major presence in Nagano. Its ath-

letes number in the thousands and its logo no longer requires the accompanying word "Nike" to be recognized.

"I'm not depressed at being a ubiquitous symbol," said Vizhler Corpuz Mooney, a Nike spokeswoman. "Yes, the things that we do as a sports company are becoming news themselves. But we're just doing what we do."

Ultimately, the question is this: Does what corporations add to an Olympics outweigh concerns about money-making ventures being so crucial to what, theoretically, is supposed to be a final bastion of sport for sport's sake?

"There are no total tyrants and no totally good people in this," said John Lucas, a Penn State professor emeritus who has been researching the Olympics for 35 years. "But as long as we are alive, it is impossible to exclude the corporate sector."

ITALY: Prodi Begins to Roll Out a Series of Free-Market Reforms

Continued from Page 1

with plans to introduce more disclosure requirements and improved corporate governance rules for publicly quoted companies on the Milan bourse, and the Consob stock market regulatory authority will strengthen its protection of small investors.

What is surprising about the new drive toward deregulation is that while there have been some complaints from trade unions and opposition leaders, the Prodi deregulation plan, especially the package concerning the state bureaucracy, has sparked relatively little in the way of mass protest.

Silvio Berlusconi, leader of the center-right opposition, on Wednesday welcomed the changes to the stock market, but criticized the government's approach on bureaucracy and retailing as "a shift from a dirigiste vision of the economy to a wildly free-market approach."

Mr. Berlusconi said he agreed "with the principle of introducing private-sector concepts in the public sector." But Mr. Berlusconi contended in an interview that "the way the government is moving seems to us a way of getting rid of those senior bureaucrats who are not politically in line with the government, and putting their own people in, as in a regime."

Mr. Prodi and other government officials deny vociferously that there is any attempt to pack the bureaucracy with political nominees. According to Franco Bassanini, the minister responsible for shaking up the bureaucracy, "We do not plan to have thousands of political appointees, as is the case in Washington when a new administration takes office, but we do want to be able to change senior officials on the basis of merit and efficiency."

Some wildcat union movements have also protested about the rules affecting public sector employees, but the response from Italy's three official trade unions — the CGIL, CISL and UIL — has been fairly muted, even cooperative.

By contrast, the last time anyone in

France spoke of curbing the privileges of public-sector employees, in 1995, a finance minister lost his job and militant unions took to the streets, threatening social cohesion.

In Germany, meanwhile, attempts to liberalize the retail sector have produced limited results, while repeated efforts to liberalize the state bureaucracy have stalled in Parliament.

"The opposition to reforms in Italy is less visible than elsewhere in Europe," said Ken Watret, an economist at Parias in London, "because a series of Italian governments have had to tackle longer term economic reforms anyway, including radical fiscal policies, in order to qualify for the single currency. And so a culture of reform has been established and it is a climate more conducive to sweeping reform than in other countries such as France and Germany."

In Frankfurt, Norbert Walter, chief economist at Deutsche Bank, said the reason Mr. Prodi has been able to launch the deregulation measures is that "this is a consensus society, which can be led to the middle only by the center-left."

"If Helmut Kohl did this in Germany," said Mr. Walter, "he would be accused of representing rich people and big business, but in Italy the center-left can argue that globalization doesn't leave them any alternative and they can get away with it."

Mr. Walter said the same type of liberalization moves had been pushed through by center-left governments in Holland and Sweden, where the governments also had close ties to unions.

Innocenzo Cipolletta, director-general of Confindustria, the Italian employers' federation, agreed, saying that "in Italy it has been the left and the trade unions that have traditionally engaged in street protests, but the left and the unions here are in a tacit nonaggression pact with the government."

Mr. Cipolletta also stressed that the Prodi government had softened the political impact of its measures by limiting the extent of pension reform and by

promising to introduce legislation requiring the introduction of a 35-hour working week.

"The reforms of retailing, the stock market and the bureaucracy are good reforms, and they go in the right direction, but they do not really hit the pocketbook interests of most voters on the center-left," he said.

Opposition to retailing deregulation, for example, has come from Sergio Bille, head of the Confindustria traders' and retailers' association, whose members tend to favor the center-right more than the governing center-left coalition. Mr. Bille has argued that the abolition of licenses for retailers that open shops of up to 300 square meters will mean financial hardship for shop owners who traditionally pay high prices for licenses and consider these to be an asset that can be sold along with the rest of their business.

Mr. Berlusconi suggested a more gradual approach for the reform of retailing, saying that "to eliminate all licenses immediately will damage family businesses and cause anarchy." The opposition leader also said the retail sector reforms would "hit a group of people who are not part of the Prodi government's electorate."

Mr. Berlusconi also criticized the government's plan to introduce legislation mandating a 35-hour working week, calling it "economic suicide" and noting that the only reason the plan exists is because it was the price Mr. Prodi had to pay during a political crisis last October in order to avoid losing the parliamentary support of the far-left Refounded Communist Party.

Mr. Prodi instead insisted that an accord on the legislation would soon be reached between the government, trade unions, the business community, and the Refounded Communists.

"We have not yet found the right accord, but we will achieve this without damaging social cohesion," he said. "The government wants to talk to all social parties."

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WORLD ROUNDUP

Rangers Fire Coach

ICE HOCKEY Colin Campbell, who took the New York Rangers to the National Hockey League's Conference Finals last season, was fired Wednesday as coach.

No successor was chosen, but separate reports suggested that he would be replaced either by John Muckler, former coach at Edmonton, or E.J. McGuire, coach of the team's American Hockey League affiliate in Hartford, Connecticut.

Campbell, 45, had a 118-108-43 record in three and a half seasons. But this season the team, with a payroll of \$44 million, highest in NHL history, is 17-24-16. (AP)

Veterans Beat League

BASEBALL A group of 384 former players was awarded \$58,000 and interest for royalties owed by major league baseball for the use of their pictures and names. The players sued major league baseball, and its marketing arm, in Alameda County Superior Court for breach over payments for several products, including trading cards. (AP)

Go Ahead for Belgian GP

FORMULA ONE The International Automobile Federation (FIA) has given the green light to Spa-Francorchamps to stage the 1998 Belgian Grand Prix, the Walloon regional government said Wednesday. The FIA had threatened to cancel the race, scheduled for Aug. 30, after the Belgian government decided to ban all tobacco advertising and sponsorship from Jan. 1, 1999. (Reuters)

Test Fizzles Out

CRICKET The first test between South Africa and Pakistan in Johannesburg was abandoned Wednesday because of bad light and lack of enthusiasm — there was little chance of any result other than a draw. After the game both teams were fined for the slow rate at which they bowled their overs.

Rashid Latif, the Pakistan captain, said his team had debated returning home because of persistent speculation over the mugging of two players, Mohammad Akram and Saqlain Mushtaq. The police have been investigating claims the two players were seen at a Johannesburg night club at the time of the alleged attack. (Reuters)

Royle Hired To Retool Manchester City Club

Readers Joe Royle, former manager of both the Oldham and Everton soccer clubs, took over at Manchester City on Wednesday after Frank Clark was dismissed.

Royle, 47, signed a two-and-a-half-year deal with City, which has won the English championship twice but is now second-from-last in the first division. That is the lowest position in the club's history and 43 places below its local rival, Manchester United. City has 15 more matches this season, and if it remains in the bottom three places of the first division it will be relegated to the second division.

"I have no qualms or worries about the situation," Royle said. "We have problems, but they are not unsolvable."

Royle played for City from 1974 to 1980. He left as Everton's manager in March 1997. "City means a lot to me," he said.

Greeks Go Easy on a Colleague

Greek lawmakers agree that fan violence at soccer matches is unforgivable unless the alleged hooligan is one of their own. The Associated Press reported from Athens.

Ignoring an appeal by a public prosecutor, a strong majority of the 300-member Greek Parliament voted not to strip a fellow deputy, Yiannis Tsaklidis, of his immunity from prosecution after he was accused of beating a soccer referee following a first-division game last year.

In a vote late Tuesday, 187 of 254 deputies present opposed allowing Tsaklidis's prosecution, despite the lawmaker's admission that he threatened the referee in January 1997. The decision was published Wednesday.

Tsaklidis allegedly beat the referee at a match between Kavala, the team he supports, and visiting Olympiakos Piraeus.

He rushed onto the field after fans complained that the referee was favoring Olympiakos, which won the match, 2-1.

Tsaklidis denied hitting the referee, but admitted to Parliament that he threatened the man with violence.

"I told him I could beat him up if I wanted because I'm a deputy and I have immunity," Tsaklidis said.



Steffi Graf hitting a backhand in her victory Wednesday over Andrea Glass at the Faber Grand Prix in Hannover.

A Bit Rusty, But Same Old Steffi

Graf Rolls in First Singles Match Since Injury Forced 8-Month Layoff

The Associated Press HANNOVER, Germany — Steffi Graf rolled to an easy two-set victory Wednesday in her first singles match in more than eight months.

Displaying no signs of the knee injury that sidelined her for so long, Graf beat a fellow German, Andrea Glass, 6-4, 6-2, in a second-round match at the \$450,000 Faber Grand Prix.

"I'm not happy with everything today, but I clearly have the feeling I can make it," said Graf, whose injuries forced her to delay her comeback five times and led to speculation she would never return.

Graf, who held the top ranking for a record 374 weeks, had already tested the knee in a doubles victory Monday, playing competitively for the first time since a loss to Amanda Coetzer at the French Open on June 3.

On Wednesday, Graf sometimes struggled with her backhand and committed numerous unforced errors against Glass, who is ranked 95th in the world. At the start of the second set, Graf threw her racket in frustration.

"I know I can play better — I made a

lot more errors than in practice," she said. But she still won in 64 minutes as 4,000 spectators stomped their feet and cheered wildly after match point.

Graf, 28, will face a tougher opponent in her quarterfinal match Thursday or Friday, playing either Sabine Appelmans of Belgium, ranked No. 24 in the world, or Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria, ranked No. 29.

"I don't really care who I play," Graf said. "I'm just happy to be back. I've worked really hard for this."

The seven-time Wimbledon champion had her left leg surgically repaired for fractured cartilage and a ruptured patella shortly after losing to Coetzer, then underwent intensive therapy. Until two months ago, Graf said she wasn't sure her knee would allow a comeback.

"The knee is in very good shape after the operation, but of course, it will never be perfect," she said.

In Graf's absence, Martina Hingis has taken over the No. 1 ranking. But Graf, who has won 21 Grand Slam titles, said Monday that she was still ambitious. "If I didn't have that ambition, I

shouldn't have come back," Graf said. Despite letting a 5-2 lead slip away in the first set, as her backhand errors mounted, Graf also moved easily around the court and flashed the powerful forehand that once dominated women's tennis.

Henneman an Early Exit Again Tim Henneman, ranked No. 17 in the world, crashed to his fourth consecutive first-round defeat when he lost, 7-5, 6-3, to an unseeded Swede, Magnus Norman, in the European Community tennis championship, Reuters reported from Antwerp.

Cris Rusedski, the fifth seed, beat the rising Moroccan star, Hicham Arazi, 7-6, 3-6, 6-3, after a tense duel.

Henneman, last year's losing finalist in Antwerp, said the string of early exits was eating away at his self-confidence, but that he hoped to turn the tide soon.

"I'm not the first player to struggle with confidence and I won't be the last," said the eighth seed. "There is nothing you can do about it. If I can keep working at my game, I know I'll come out the other side and the wins will come."

Man Facing Jail Over Shove in a Boys' Game

The Associated Press MILFORD, Connecticut — Kyle Bova was a 13-year-old Little League umpire when he realized that sometimes adults take the game of baseball very seriously.

What started out as a game played by 10- and 11-year-olds on Oct. 5, 1996, ended up in Connecticut Superior Court on Tuesday, pitting Kyle against one of the coaches.

The freckled-faced boy, now 15, took the witness stand to testify that a coach, Richard Burns, 39, shoved him after an emotional game. Burns was charged with breach of peace for allegedly shoving Kyle into a fence.

Kyle had called off the game in the second inning because the adult coaches screamed at the calls.

"It didn't finish because the coaches got out of hand," Kyle said. "They were yelling and got thrown out of the game."

The young ump, still wearing braces on his teeth, told a state prosecutor, Mark Hurley, that he ordered the coaches off the field "for swearing and unsportsmanlike conduct."

He said Burns marched his team off the field and then returned and pushed him into a gate. "He pushed me from my shoulder into the fence," said Bova, who was a seventh-grader at the time. "My back hurt a little bit."

After the brief game between the Milford International team and the Burns Construction team, Bova told his parents what happened and they took him to the police department to file a complaint.

The breach-of-peace charge is a Class B misdemeanor that could bring a sentence of six months in prison and a \$1,000 fine.

A defense attorney, Daniel Shepro, said Burns refused to plea bargain and demanded a trial because "my client says he's innocent. That's why we're here."

A second prosecution witness, David Hill, backed up Bova's account. Hill, an assistant coach for the Milford International Team, said Burns made "quite a scene" when the umpire made a call he didn't agree with, and exhibited particularly malicious behavior toward Kyle.

"He shoved Kyle Bova, almost viciously, into the fence," Hill testified.

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Stoudamire a Hit
In Blazer Debut

Portland Native Welcomed Home

The Associated Press
Damon Stoudamire had 12 points, eight rebounds and six assists in his debut as a Trail Blazer as Portland beat Golden State, 101-83.

The game Tuesday night was played after Golden State traded Joe Smith and Brian Shaw to Philadelphia for Jim Jackson and Clarence Weatherspoon earlier in the day.

Walt Williams, traded by Toronto with Stoudamire and Carlos Rogers, had 15 points in his debut with the Blazers.

NBA ROUNDOUP

and Rogers played six minutes for his new team. The Warriors, fearful of losing Smith as a free agent after the season, played short-handed their deal with the Blazers.

The Raptors, meanwhile, were still awaiting the arrival of Kenny Anderson, acquired by the Stoudamire deal last Friday with Alvin Williams and Gary Trent. They might have to trade Anderson, who was vowed not to play for them.

Stoudamire, a Portland native, got a warm hometown greeting.

The Blazers benched Chauncey Hill, the No. 3 overall pick in the 1997 draft, and Dee Brown as Boston lost at Sacramento.

"If Chauncey is involved in a trade, we don't want to say until the trade deadline is over," said the Boston coach, Rick Pitino, referring to the NBA trade deadline on Thursday.



Michael Jordan doing what he does best during the Bulls' victory over the Pacers.

Thursday, Pitino said the Celtics were not ready to make any promises to Billups as they explored more ways to rebuild for the future.

Mitch Richmond scored 23 points and Anthony Johnson had a career-high 21 for Sacramento. It was the fourth straight victory for the Kings, who led by as many as 21 points in the third quarter.

The 76ers, 97 Cavaliers 97 Brevin Knight, the NBA leader in steals, missed a foul shot with 2.6 seconds left after swiping the ball from Allen Iverson, and Philadelphia grabbed a rare victory over visiting Cleveland.

Iverson had 27 points for the 76ers, who broke a 12-game losing streak to the Cavs. Derrick Coleman added 17 points and 15 rebounds, while Theo Ratliff had 17 points for the 76ers.

The Bulls (39-15) opened the fourth quarter with a 13-5 spurt to grab a 16-point lead and went on to even their season series with the Pacers (36-15) at one victory apiece.

Heat 110, Timberwolves 84 Voshon Lenard scored 26 points on 10-of-13 shooting to lead Miami over visiting Minnesota. Alonzo Mourning added 17 points and seven rebounds for the Heat, who have won three straight and seven of eight. Tim Hard-

Warriors Ship Joe Smith
As Trade Deadline LoomsBy Mike Wise
New York Times Service

NEW YORK — Joe Smith is going home. Anfernee Hardaway and Mitch Richmond are going nowhere. And before Thursday at 6 P.M. eastern standard time, Christian Laettner could be headed almost anywhere.

With the National Basketball Association trading deadline looming, at least one of a million rumored deals came to fruition on Tuesday while others either died or sprang to life on the bargaining table.

The Golden State Warriors decided that Smith, the No. 1 overall draft pick in 1995, was not worth the \$100 million contract he wants, so they shipped him to his hometown of Philadelphia with Brian Shaw for Jim Jackson and Clarence Weatherspoon.

As one Eastern Conference general manager, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said: "They could have gotten much more for him three weeks ago, but that's what happens when you hold on to a player you don't want."

The Orlando Magic and the Sacramento Kings were still entertaining offers for their perennial All-Stars, but neither Hardaway nor Richmond appeared headed to another team. Executives from both teams said they were in no hurry to deal franchise players who might bring more-equipped suitors in the off season.

But the Atlanta Hawks are apparently seriously interested in moving either Laettner or Allan Henderson, their power-forward tandem, who will both be free agents at season's end and who decided not to negotiate contract extensions last summer.

According to an Eastern Conference team official, the Kings have offered Michael Smith and Billy Owens to the Hawks for Laettner.

An Eastern Conference general manager also said that the Nets were interested in Laettner in a package that would involve Kendall Gill, but neither club would confirm trade conversations involving Laettner.

"Everybody in the basketball world knows we're exploring all our options," Pete Babcock, the Hawks' general manager, said. "We're trying to decide rationally what the most prudent thing to do is."

Laettner is averaging 14.8 points per game, his lowest point production since his freshman year at Duke University. His 7.4 rebounds per game is the second worst he has had in his six seasons in the league.

Meanwhile, while starting in place of a floundering Laettner the past week, Henderson has played well and given credence to speculation that the Hawks cannot pay and retain both forwards in the off season.

"We like both players, and both figure prominently into what we do," Babcock said. "We are concerned about it."

The Toronto Raptors are still waiting for Kenny Anderson to report. Since being traded for Damon Stoudamire last Friday in a six-player swap between Portland and Toronto, the former Trail Blazers' point guard has waged a holdout to protest the deal and make sure he is re-routed to a contending team.

The Detroit Pistons are said to be that team by a number of team officials. The club has apparently offered Jerome Williams, Don Reid and point guard Lindsey Hunter for Anderson and the Toronto center Zan Tabak.

Pat Riley is still talking to Phoenix about the possibility of moving Isaac Austin and Dan Majerle to the Suns for Cliff Robinson and Cedric Ceballos. It is not unthinkable that Austin and Ceballos will switch addresses, only because their current teams desperately want to get rid of them because of salary cap restraints this summer.

Several teams are already giving up on their rookie point guards. The Vancouver Grizzlies are shopping Antonio Daniels, and the Boston Celtics are trying to move Chauncey Billups and the center Travis Knight before Thursday.

With another summer of spending a few months away, many teams are not angling to make their franchises better this season. Some are simply thinking about salary-cap room to sign their stars in the off season. "In our case, we have a team that's improved and good, but not yet a championship contender," said John Nash, the Nets' general manager.

"I'm not saying we're going to do something, but if we did, it might be something small to put us in a position where we can make that next step during the off season."

SCOREBOARD

BASKETBALL

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	31	21	.596	0
New Jersey	29	21	.580	4
Philadelphia	27	26	.509	7 1/2
Washington	26	27	.491	8
Charlotte	23	29	.442	11
Orlando	16	33	.327	16 1/2

CENTRAL DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	30	15	.672	0
Indiana	28	18	.609	1 1/2
Atlanta	27	20	.574	3
Charlotte	20	23	.464	8 1/2
Cleveland	20	24	.452	9
Memphis	20	24	.452	9
San Antonio	11	40	.216	26 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

NORTHWEST DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	35	15	.700	0
Seattle	35	16	.686	1 1/2
Utah	28	23	.549	7
Denver	26	25	.510	9 1/2
Phoenix	14	37	.273	21 1/2
Sacramento	12	39	.231	24 1/2
San Jose	4	46	.087	30 1/2

PACIFIC DIVISION

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	39	12	.765	0
Golden State	35	14	.714	3
Portland	34	16	.680	4 1/2
San Antonio	31	20	.608	8
Utah	24	27	.471	15 1/2
San Jose	11	41	.212	28 1/2
Golden State	4	48	.083	35 1/2

TUESDAY RESULTS

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	35	16	.686	1 1/2
Seattle	28	23	.549	7
Utah	26	25	.510	9 1/2
Phoenix	14	37	.273	21 1/2
Sacramento	12	39	.231	24 1/2
San Jose	4	46	.087	30 1/2

TODAY'S RESULTS

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Portland	36	16	.692	1 1/2
Seattle	29	23	.558	7
Utah	27	25	.519	9 1/2
Phoenix	15	37	.288	21 1/2
Sacramento	13	39	.241	24 1/2
San Jose	5	46	.106	30 1/2

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WINTER OLYMPICS

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1998

With Ease, Czechs Send U.S. Hockey Team Home

Despite NHL Stars, Americans Miss Medal Round

By Rachel Alexander
Washington Post Service

NAGANO, Japan — It was hard to tell whether pain or shock was registering on the faces of the American hockey players on Wednesday, since they were holding their heads down for so long.

A 4-1 quarterfinal loss to the Czech Republic had knocked them out of the Olympics, and as they skated toward the Czech team to shake hands, no one seemed to want to look up at the scoreboard and face the truth.

Stocked with National Hockey League players for the first time, the U.S. squad blew chance after chance here, finishing sixth out of the eight teams in the tournament's main draw. In four games, the Americans defeated only one team, Belarus, and in their three losses, they were outscored, 12-4.

"This was the biggest waste of time, ever," the team's alternate captain, Keith Tkachuk, said. "I hate to be negative, but this is disgusting. We deserve to be out of it; we didn't play well from the start."

"It's devastating. From the opening shot, we weren't well enough to do anything. We were just a big disappointment."

The United States, winner of the 1996 World Cup, was expected to compete for a gold medal and players said they had never considered going home without even playing a medal-round game. Another gold-medal favorite, Sweden, was also knocked out of the tournament on Wednesday by Finland, 2-1. Canada rolled over Kazakhstan, 4-1, and Russia defeated Belarus, 4-1.

Finland's victory was a major surprise, but looking back on the tournament, it was hard to call the Czech victory an upset. The Czechs, who have 12 NHL players, won two of their three round-robin games, falling only to Russia, 2-1.

The Americans lost their first game to Sweden, 4-2, starting the game strong but then looking lost on the international ice surface, which is larger than an NHL rink. They then defeated Belarus, 5-2, but the game was much closer than the score indicated. By the time they got to their third and final round-robin game, a much-hyped matchup with Canada,

OLYMPIC SCHEDULE

THURSDAY, FEB. 19

ALPINE SKIING — Women: Slalom, 9:30 a.m. Men: Giant Slalom, 11:15 a.m.

BASKETBALL — Women: 407.5km relay, 1 p.m.

BOWLING — Women: 407.5km relay, 1 p.m.

SHORT TRACK SPEEDSKATING — Women: 500 meters, 7 p.m. Men: 500 meters preliminary, 7 p.m.; 500 meters relay preliminary, 7 p.m.

SPRINT SKIING — Women: 1000 meters, 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEB. 20

ALPINE SKIING — Slalom — Women: Giant Slalom, 9:30 a.m.

BOWLING — Women: 407.5km relay, 1 p.m.

BASKETBALL — Women: 407.5km relay, 1 p.m.

BOWLING — Women: 407.5km relay, 1 p.m.

SHORT TRACK SPEEDSKATING — Women: 500 meters, 7 p.m.

SPRINT SKIING — Women: 1000 meters, 3 p.m.

the Americans looked more comfortable on the ice surface. They struggled against goaltender Patrick Roy, however, and the defense often made mental errors in a 4-1 loss.

On Wednesday, the U.S. players created more scoring chances than at any other time in the tournament, but they were simply unable to finish all but one of their 39 shots on the Czech goaltender, Dominik Hasek.

"We had a number of chances but Dominik Hasek was just unbelievable," said Ron Wilson, the U.S. coach. "It just seemed we couldn't finish off, especially in the last two games, the opportunities that we managed to create."

On Tuesday, Wilson tried to give his players some extra motivation for this game by letting the team's trainer, Juergen Merz, shear his hair to a close-cropped crew cut. Wilson had a similar hairstyle at the World Cup and was apparently trying to remind his players of that more productive time. He also showed a video before the game that included scenes from the movies "Network" and "Animal House."

Neither technique worked, though. Part of the problem was Hasek, who may be able to propel the Czech Republic to a medal if he continues to play this well. But Hasek wasn't the reason the Americans allowed the Czechs to score four goals. The defensive lapses that plagued them throughout the Games showed up again and their goaltender, Mike Richter, did not sparkle.

The forward corps were not great success stories either. They often failed to skate back and help the defense when opponents were in their zone, and when they had the puck they had trouble scoring.

"I think we coped pretty well as a team, but the bottom line is that we just didn't score goals," a forward, John LeClair, said. "That's something you need to win, and obviously one of the reasons I was on the team, and I was not able to contribute."

"I'm extremely disappointed," LeClair added. "It was an honor to play in the Olympics but we didn't just come over here to play, we came here to win."

Compared to some of the Europeans and to the Canadians, who believe they are here on a mission for God and country, the Americans



Three Czechs defending Dominik Hasek, top, and his goal from an American attack.

seemed less intense both on and off the ice.

"For our little country, we have a lot of pride — we needed to accomplish something for Czech," a defenseman, Petr Svoboda, said. "We did have more passion, yes."

Responding to criticism that the Americans spent too much time sampling Nagano's local nightlife and not enough time practicing, winger Brett Hull said he had been in bed by 8 P.M. on eight of the past 10 nights, doing crossword puzzles. He wasn't sure that was such a good idea, however.

"That more than anything was a downfall for us — it was almost stifling," he said. "Maybe if we did something to relax a little more, we would have done better."

Many of the players contrasted the intense high of winning the World Cup to the intense low of Wednesday's loss, although none of them thought this result would mean a step back for USA Hockey. Still, the frustration was overwhelming.

"I'm very disappointed — we came here with the expectation of winning a gold medal," Wilson said. "This is something that will always be in the back of my mind: 'what if.'"

In the other games, *The Associated Press* reported:

Canada 4, Kazakhstan 1 Wayne Gretzky had two assists and Patrick Roy stopped 16 shots as Canada beat Kazakhstan.

The victory set up a showdown in Friday's semifinals between the goalies Patrick Roy and Dominik Hasek.

"He's a great player, up there with the best players in the game," Gretzky said of Hasek. "One player doesn't beat a team, though."

Canada and Russia, both 4-0, are the only

teams with spotless records. The Canadians have outscored opponents, 16-4, in four games.

Playing its first Olympic hockey tournament, Kazakhstan was outscored, 25-6, in three round-robin losses. "The Canadian team served as the teacher," the Kazakh coach, Boris Alexandrov, said. "It was a major learning experience to play against such stars."

Joe Nieuwendyk and Shayne Corson scored 42 seconds apart in the game's first 2:13 to give Canada a 2-0 lead before a raucous partisan crowd. The Kazakhs scored 1½ minutes later when Konstantin Shafranov whistled a shot through the legs of a Canadian defender that bounced off Roy's stick and into the net.

Late in the second period, Brendan Shanahan and Steve Yzerman made it 4-1 with goals 32 seconds apart, both assisted by Gretzky.

Finland 2, Sweden 1 Teemu Selanne scored twice in the third period as Finland eliminated the defending Olympic champion. The Finns will face Russia next.

Sweden was without its standout defenseman, Ulf Samuelsson, who played in three games before being banned from the Olympics for having both U.S. and Swedish passports. Selanne, the top scorer in the NHL this season, opened the scoring with 15:48 remaining. He made it 2-0 with 17:17 left.

Peter Forsberg scored for the Swedes with 12 seconds to go.

Russia 4, Belarus 1 Unbeaten Russia advanced to the semifinals, getting 25 saves from Mikhail Shtalenkov as it beat Belarus.

Women's Hockey: A Dream Grows Up

By Helene Elliott
Los Angeles Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — I realized at a young age that I couldn't be Mickey Mantle, even though I was a better hitter than my brother — from both sides of the plate. So I settled for pretending to be Mickey Mantle's daughter.

That's what girls did, it seemed. We dreamed of being something but often settled for something less, either because there was no

VANTAGE POINT

opportunity to achieve what we wanted or because we felt compelled to defer to what our male relatives thought was best for us.

When Cammi Granato was growing up in the Chicago suburbs, she didn't want to be like Denis Savard of the Blackhawks, she wanted to be Kelly Kisio and some of the other players she admired on the Rangers.

They were laughed at. They were told hockey was a sport for boys. Their neighbors scolded their parents for letting them play. They had to tuck their hair under their helmets and register under their initials or male first names to be allowed to play.

But they played. And it wasn't necessary to understand or like women's hockey to be touched by the spirit of the U.S. women's team brought to these gray, passionless Games on Tuesday when they won the gold medal at the first women's Olympic tournament.

They wanted to be here. They sacrificed to be here. For them, this is the pinnacle of their athletic lives. Their male counterparts have given every indication they regard this whole experience as an annoyance. When Brett Hull said he was as committed to the Olympic effort as the next guy, no one realized the next guy was sitting on the adjacent bar stool with Hull, Chris Chelios and other U.S. players at a Nagano night spot after a game.

It was shameful that only a few players from the U.S. men's team showed up at Big Hat arena for the women's 3-1 victory over Canada.

Ray Bourque found the time to cheer for the Canadian women. So did Wayne Gretzky, Rob Blake, Patrick Roy, Keith Primeau, Adam Foote and Chris Pronger. Eric Lindros rose to his feet several times to lead ovations. Rob

Zamuner waved a Canadian flag to stir applause for the women's valiant effort.

The U.S. men were in a team meeting that coincided with the women's game, even though coach Ron Wilson and several players had declared they would attend to show their support. That's the kind of support the women used to get — no support at all. Not that it stopped them.

And it's the U.S. men's loss. They missed a game that had enough emotional resonance to slice through the thick layers of cynicism and fatigue that form among journalists by this stage of the Games.

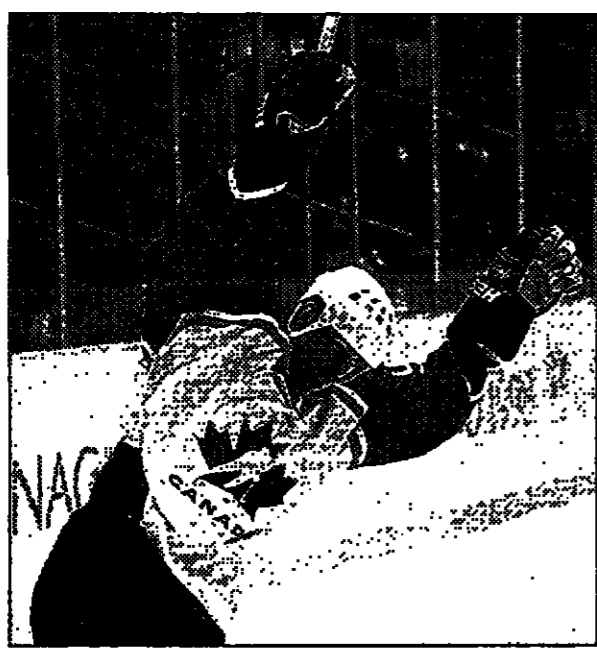
Who couldn't be happy for Granato? Or for 5-foot-1, 128-pound Lisa Brown-Miller, who gave up the security of coaching the women's hockey team at Princeton but almost quit the U.S. team a couple of years ago? When her husband told her, "Come February 1998, I don't want to see you sitting on the couch and having regrets because you didn't try out for this team," she realized she couldn't live with herself if she didn't try to be part of this.

She tried and she won, but victory was not hers alone. This was a triumph for anyone, male or female, whose dream has ever been ridiculed. It was a victory for whatever innocence remains in sports, for everyone who competes for the love of a sport and not financial rewards.

It was not the most beautiful hockey game ever played. To anyone accustomed to the speed and finishing skills of NHL players, the women's gold-medal game — like most women's games — was slow and occasionally frustrating. Players know what to do with the puck, but their lack of arm and upper-body strength limits the length of their passes. Their legs aren't as muscular as those of male players, so they don't skate as swiftly. I'm not sure I would pay to see games in a women's professional hockey league if one is ever established.

That said, it was impossible not to feel happy for the U.S. women Tuesday or to identify with them and their struggles for respect. I suspect many male sportswriters felt the same.

We can all see something of ourselves in the female hockey players, who look more like "real" people than the doll-like figure skaters or 7-foot behemoth basketball players we have put on pedestals. We can feel happy for them as athletes who were given so little, yet made so much of it.



Gretzky celebrating after creating Steve Yzerman's goal.

Judges Vote for Elegance Over Joyful Exuberance

By Jere Longman
New York Times Service

NAGANO, Japan — Tara Lipinski issued a challenge with the performance of her life Wednesday and Michelle Kwan answered with a short program that was deliberate and safe, but precise and refined under pressure. The judges have shown that they favor elegance in the Winter Games and Kwan is one of the most artistic skaters of all time.

Kwan, 17, the 1996 world champion, made a more sophisticated choice of music, costume and choreography than the 15-year-old Lipinski. While Lipinski skated to movie music that built to a crescendo into her triple toe loop. She is two years older than Lipinski, and those two years of maturity are likely to make the difference between a gold medal and a silver if Kwan skates cleanly in Friday's long program.

Lipinski landed a more difficult triple lutz-double loop combination to Kwan's triple lutz-double toe loop, and Lipinski also performed a more challenging triple flip to Kwan's triple toe. But while Lipinski is a tight, quick jumper, Kwan seems to savor each jump, flowing out of her axel, lutz and toe loop with extended gracefulness.

She also attained greater height than Lipinski on her double axel and her swan-like spiral drew applause as Kwan glided on one leg, making a difficult edge change in front of the judges in an enchanting display of flexibility, balance and technical virtuosity.

Wednesday's two and a half minute short program, with its eight required elements involving jumps, spins, spirals and footwork, counted for one-third of the scoring. Friday's four-minute free skate will count for two-thirds of the scoring. It is here that Kwan has an even greater advantage because the artistic scores serve as the tiebreaker.

Lipinski skated 30 minutes before

Kwan and delivered a joyful, grown-up performance that received a 5.9 for artistry from the French judge and 5.8s from five other judges.

Kwan was uninjured and flawless, fully completing each jump and spin without appearing to be looking prematurely ahead to the next element. She did not attempt a triple-triple combination because she did not feel that she needed it. She was careful with her individual triple jump, performing a triple toe loop instead of a more difficult triple flip.

Kwan received marks of 5.9 across the board for presentation and eight of the nine judges placed her first.

At the U.S. national championships, Kwan had inserted the triple flip into her short program because of a stress fracture in her left foot. The triple toe is the easiest of triple jumps, but it hurt her foot when she planted her left toe pick. But her foot has improved markedly in the last month, and Wednesday she returned to the triple toe loop because it felt more comfortable and reliable.

"I preferred that she do the flip, but it was her call," said Frank Carroll, who coaches Kwan. "I said, This is your life, your Olympics, so you accept the responsibility."

But it was only by a matter of degree that Kwan was better than Lipinski, who toured last summer and rehearsed in front of a mirror to improve her artistry. On Wednesday, she skated as a young woman coming of age.

"Oh my God, it was the best performance I did ever," Lipinski said to her coach, Richard Callaghan, as she awaited her scores.

She was fast and jubilant, smiling widely when she landed the triple flip that she had crash-landed at nationals and again when she landed her double axel. But it was the polish of her spirals and grace of her overall performance that defined her performance.

"Artistically and emotionally, that's the best I've ever seen her do," Callaghan said.



Tara Lipinski of the United States skating the short program Wednesday.

GAMES: Kwan and Lipinski Are 1 and 2

Continued from Page 1

smile. Kwan looked into the stands before beginning her program and was motivated by the sight of the American fans with their U.S. flags.

"I thought, God, I'm in heaven," she said. "There were people clapping, a million people watching and I was by myself skating. Nothing mattered. I said it's me and the ice and that's it."

Lipinski, who skated before Kwan, said she had never poured so much of her heart into a performance.

"That was the first time I've done the program that I thought I could cry," said Lipinski, who did begin crying seconds after completing it.

"I can't even explain that feeling," she said. "It's so hard, so hard at that moment. When you do it, it's like a miracle."

Another U.S. favorite, Nicole Bobek, made three major mistakes and burst into tears after leaving the ice. She finished 17th.

Laetitia Hubert, a highly regarded three-time Olympian from France, fell on a jump and found herself 12th; and Barysaya, this year's European champion, two-footed a landing and thus couldn't touch Kwan or Lipinski — who skated without so much as a bobble in the two-minute, 40-second program that severely penalizes any technical mistakes.

Lu Chen of China finished fourth, and Irina Slutskaya of Russia, fifth. Any of the top three could win the gold Friday by winning the long program, which counts for two-thirds of the score.

As Kwan and Lipinski sat side-by-side behind microphones after the competition, wearing identical Team USA jackets and high-voltage smiles, it was easy to forget the difficult path each took to this competition.

Kwan lost her U.S. and world championship titles early last year to the upstart Lipinski after making mistakes in the short programs at both competitions. Kwan's disappointment was so great that she became angry with herself, and decided that the theme of this season would be the joy of skating, since skating is her favorite thing to do.

It is also the theme of her long program Friday to "Lyrical Angelica," William Alwyn concerto.

"When I'm on the ice, I don't think anything can stop me," Kwan said. "I'm really confident on the ice. Even off the ice, I might think too much, but when I walk on the ice, it's O.K. It's like medicine."

It was during Lipinski's rise that the Kwan-Lipinski rivalry was born. After the 1997 world championships, in which Kwan finished second to Lipinski, this pair was labeled the future of women's figure skating and figured to duel it out through the 1998 Olympics.

When the 1997-98 season began last fall, it was Lipinski's turn to be second-best. She lost to Kwan at Skate America in October.

Then Lipinski finished second at Trophée Lalique in November, facing heavy criticism for a tiny technical flaw in her lutz, which appears to have been corrected.

Many wondered whether she was cracking under the pressure of having been the youngest female to win the world title.

Meanwhile, Kwan's season took a different sort of nosedive. A stress fracture in her foot flared up in November and forced her to miss two months of competition. As Lipinski seemed to be recovering from her difficulties with a victory in the Champions Series final in December, Kwan was still rehabilitating.

Yet at the U.S. nationals, her first competition after the injury, Kwan finished first as Lipinski fell during the short program and finished second.

There would be no repeat of past mistakes Wednesday night. "It's fun," Lipinski said. "I didn't want to get off the ice. Tonight was so memorable, it was even better than worlds," in 1997. "It's just a feeling I can't describe."

The Olympic gold medal seems to have become the province of either Kwan and Lipinski.

"In my start pose," Kwan said, "I thought: Ready or not, here I go." Turns out, she was ready. So was Lipinski.

WINTER OLYMPICS

Heavy Snow Postpones Alpine Ski Competition

The Associated Press
SHIGA KOGEN, Japan — Olympic alpine skiers moved to a new mountain Wednesday, and the bad weather came with them.

An overnight blizzard dumped more than three feet (a meter) of snow on Mount Higashidate, forcing postponement of the men's giant slalom and delaying Alberto Tomba's bid for a medal in an unprecedented fourth Olympics.

Bulldozers and an army of 750 workers, most of them camouflage-clad members of the Japanese defense force, worked through the day to clear drifts up to six feet deep on the giant slalom course.

Officials were optimistic that the course would be ready by Thursday, when the men's giant slalom and, on a mountain 10 miles away, the women's slalom are now both scheduled.

"We can get it in shape," said David Pym, technical director for the men's race. "These guys will work as hard as anybody I've ever seen before."

The blizzard reduced visibility to zero Tuesday night on the winding, narrow road that leads from Nagano to the scattered ski areas of the Shiga Kogen region. Cars parked at the hotels along the way were little more than bumps in the snow.

The storm didn't subside until about 5 A.M., and that didn't leave enough time to remove the snow in time.

Bad weather has wiped out 6 of the 11 days of alpine skiing. That left three days — and four races — on the schedule, so the options were limited.

Bjoerndalen Leads Nordic Sweep in Sprint

The Associated Press
NOZAWA OONSEN, Japan — Ole Einar Bjoerndalen grew up in a Norwegian village where biathlon was just about the only fun boys could have. On Wednesday, for the swift sharpshooter, the fun turned into gold.

"I had perfect skiing and the best shooting I've ever done," said Bjoerndalen, who won the 10-kilometer sprint in 27 minutes, 16.2 seconds. Focusing carefully each time he pulled the trigger, he struck all 10 targets.

With the silver going to a Norwegian teammate and the bronze to a Finn, the Nordic nations put their stamp on this ski-and-shoot sport at the Nagano games.

Frode Andresen had to overcome two penalty shots, but he skied hard to win the silver in a 28:17.8. Ville Raikonen missed one target to finish in 28:21.7.

It was Norway's second biathlon gold, double the number for traditional biathlon powers Germany and Russia.

"I think we have a really good chance for the relay," Bjoerndalen said of the final men's biathlon event. "We have five or six people who can do well."

Eight of the competitors shot perfect scores, including Victor Maigourov, the Russian who is ranked third in World Cup standings after Bjoerndalen. Ricco Gross of Germany, the world No. 1, has fared well at these Games. He finished 17th in the sprint and sixth in the earlier 20-kilometer.

Bjoerndalen thought he had the gold in his grasp Tuesday. When officials stopped the 10-kilometer sprint due to heavy fog and snow, the 24-year-old student was leading the field and coming into the final two kilometers. "I was really angry," he said. "But five minutes later I was ready for the new race."

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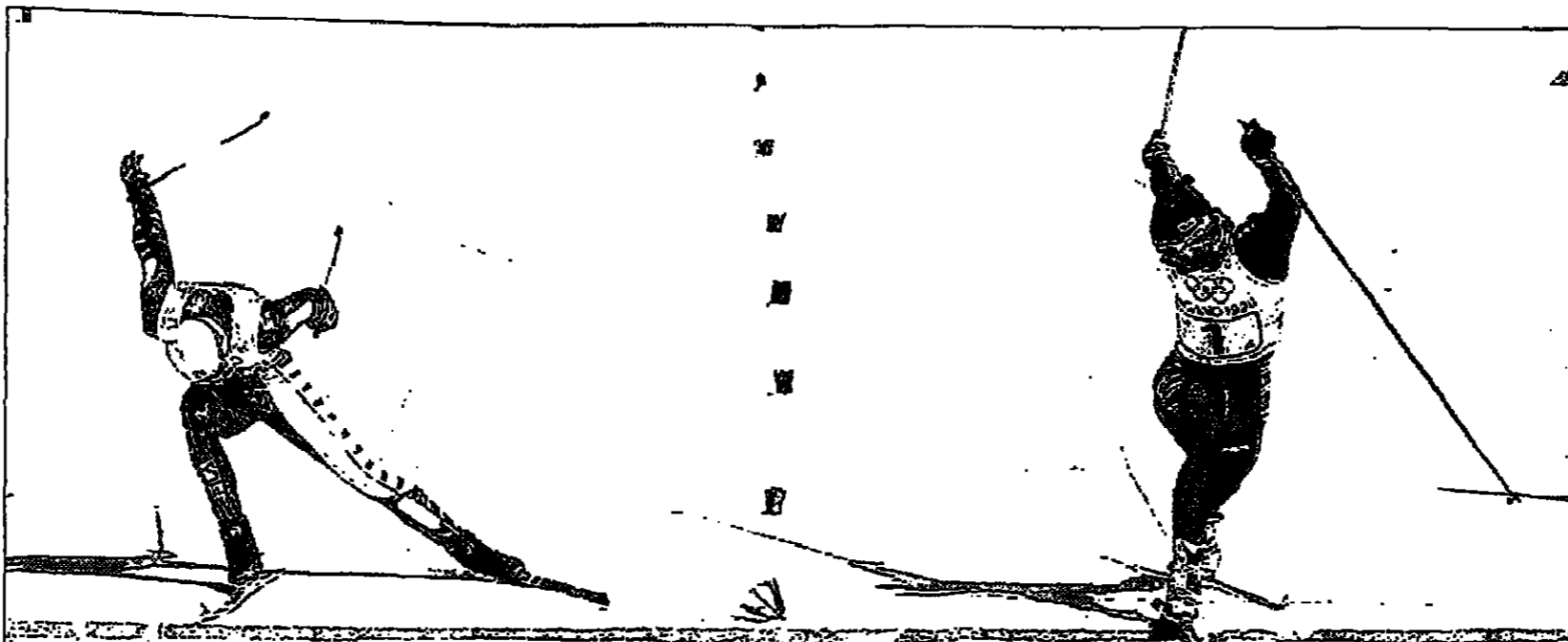
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Norway's Thomas Alsgaard, right, lunges at the finish line to beat Italy's Silvio Fauner and win the gold medal in a cross-country relay by 0.2 seconds.

Norway's Dahlie Collects a Record 7th Gold

By Christopher Clarey
New York Times Service

HAKUBA, Japan — Every Olympic event that Bjorn Dahlie now enters is not simply a race against his opponents but a race against his predecessors.

After Wednesday, he has defeated them all. Norway's remarkable and remarkably slim victory over Italy in the 40-kilometer (24.8-mile), four-man relay gave Dahlie his seventh Olympic gold medal: more than any athlete in Winter Olympic history. His 11 career medals are also a Winter Olympic record.

"Of course it means something to me, and I will be able to fully appreciate it in some years when I'm a grandfather and I'm sitting around watching old videos," said the 30-year-old Dahlie. "But for me, it's more important right now to focus on each single race."

There was much to focus on during this sunlit morning: a rarity in these Olympics that have alternated indiscriminately between rain, snow and fog. Four years ago in Lillehammer, the Italians stunned the Norwegians in front of more than 100,000 fans in the Birkebeiner Ski Stadium as Silvio Fauner outskied Dahlie in the stretch, winning the gold by the smallest margin in Olympic relay history: four-tenths of a second.

Dahlie no longer skis the anchor leg. And after Norway's Sture Sivertsen got off to a disastrous start, finishing the first leg 22.6 seconds off the lead in 10th position, and Norway's second skier, Erling Jevne took that deficit to 12.6 seconds, Dahlie took off in freestyle

pursuit of Italy's Fabio Maj. He quickly erased the lead and then, in a tactical move, slowed to let Italy's Fauner start the anchor leg in front.

This time, Fauner's would-be foil was Dahlie's Norwegian neighbor Thomas Alsgaard. But in the end, Alsgaard did what Dahlie could not, out-lunging the Italian at the finish line with

pace, temperament and technical support (waxing and material) that make a skier a champion over one distance of ten translate well to another. And though some skiers are appreciably better in classical technique than the freestyle, or skating, technique, Dahlie is no specialist.

Slightly more menacing in freestyle, he has won two of his five individual gold medals in classical races, including the 10-kilometer event he won here last week to rebound from a miscalculation about wax that had caused him to finish 20th in the 30-kilometer freestyle.

What is easier to argue is that Dahlie is the greatest cross-country skier in history. According to former French skier Francis Repellin, who is now one of Dahlie's ski technicians, his tolerance for oxygen deficit is "extraordinary" and his tolerance for training is the same as he logs more than 6,000 miles a year on skis, roller skis, bicycle, hiking boots and canoe.

He has become a red-headed cocktail of drive and precision who is perhaps even more meticulous than Swedish cross-country great Gunde Svann, who ranks second behind Dahlie in all-time World Cup victories.

Dahlie plans his daily schedule down to the minute and is so concerned about maintaining perfect health — finely tuned skiers are more susceptible to viruses — that when he arrives in a strange hotel room, he spreads a sheet of plastic on the floor to protect himself against germs and sleeps with an air purifier.

Although cross-country skiing is an

often solitary and always grueling way to earn a good living, Dahlie is not a loner. He is an accomplished hunter who often tracks birds and moose in the wilderness with his dog. For the last two summers, he and former Norwegian teammate Vegard Ulvang have hosted a popular television program in which they sample the cuisines and cultures of Europe with help from a Norwegian chef.

Dahlie also has a family with long-time girlfriend Vilde. The couple, who live in Nannestad, have two young sons: Sivert, 3, and Sander, 1. Both are too young to appreciate what their father means to Norway: a nation where Nordic sports have as much resonance as football in Texas.

Dahlie's recently published autobiography entitled "Gulljakten" (Going for Gold) has sold approximately 140,000 copies in a nation of 4.3 million.

"It's difficult for somebody outside Scandinavia to understand," Dahlie once said. "I have had people come up to me in the street and tell me they have been crying in front of the television."

There has been some controversy. After winning the 800-meter gold medal at the last Winter Olympics, Norwegian runner Vegard Rodal criticized Dahlie for using an altitude house for training, claiming it gave him an unethical advantage because it artificially increased his red-blood-cell count. Dahlie did not disagree but has continued to use the method, as have many of his competitors in Finland, Sweden and Russia.

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A Golden Sweep for 2 U.S. Daredevils

By Ira Berkow
New York Times Service

IZUNA KOGEN, Japan — Nikki Stone jumped from the fourth floor better than any other woman Wednesday and won an Olympic gold medal. Eric Bergoust did similarly among the men, leaping perhaps from the fifth floor, and he, too, earned a gold for his troubles. It was a gold-medal sweep for the Americans in what is otherwise known as the freestyle skiing aerials.

"I can't believe it," Stone said. "I'm so happy."

Bergoust's broad smile showed that he was sharing Stone's delight. Stone, a 23-year-old from Westborough, Massachusetts, made her ski run from a ramp on the side of a snowy mountain here — she went as high as a four-story building before her descent and landed without falling or, shockingly, to many first-time spectators, without breaking every bone in her body.

Bergoust, 29, outlipped Sebastian Foucares of France, the silver medalist, and Dmitri Daschinsky of Belarus, who won the bronze.

Bergoust scored 255.64 points for his two jumps to 248.79 for Foucares. Scoring is computed on 70 percent for the jump and 30 percent for the landing.

While growing up in Missoula, Montana, Bergoust always wanted to be an acrobat, a pilot or a skier. Now he is all three.

"I don't know what to say," said Bergoust, who finished seventh in the aerials in the 1994 Winter Games in Lillehammer, Norway. "I have never tried to think past this moment."

In the women's draw, Stone somersaulted a few times, twirled a few times and went head over heels in one or two other fashions in the two jumps that each of the 12 contestants executed.

It was the greatest degree of difficulty that any of the women attempted. Her first jump put her into first place, and later all she had to do to win the gold was essentially the same thing she accomplished on the first.

"I had a game plan and I stuck to it," she said, as she hurried to embrace her boyfriend, Michael Spencer, a moguls skier, on the sidelines.

Stone's total score of 193 comfortably surpassed the silver medalist, Nanna Xu of China, who finished with 186.97. Colette Brand of Switzerland was third at 171.83.

Stone, a former gymnast, has been skiing in this fashion for about six years, and was 13th in the 1994 Winter Olympics. She had been a world champion, but last year she injured her back.

When she returned to action, she did so with a little less bravura than in times when she had been more solidly stitched together. After all, she didn't graduate magna cum laude in psychology for nothing.

But soon she was regathering her mental and physical momentum.

"I'm a thrill seeker," she said. "I run on adrenaline, and you can't get more adrenaline than this."

Pine boughs were strewn in the snow, a precaution in freestyle skiing aerials on days like this one in which the sky was gray. The green boughs are a signal to the somersaulting aerialist which is the earth and which is the sky. To be going down when you think you're going up can result in quite a surprise landing.

Xu's silver was the first Olympic medal in skiing in the history of China. Her teammate Dandan Guo was seventh.



Eric Bergoust of the U.S. doing his second jump during the freestyle event.

OLYMPIC SCOREBOARD

BIATHLON

MEN'S 10 KM

FINAL

1. Ole Einar Bjoerndalen, Norway, 27:16.2 (2).
2. Frode Andresen, Norway, 28:17.8 (3).
3. Ville Raikonen, Finland, 28:21.7 (4).
4. Victor Maigourov, Russia, 28:24.9 (5).
5. Mikko Mattila, Latvia, 28:37.4 (6).
6. Rikis Lukac, Germany, 28:44.3 (7).
7. Holger Hallenbeck, Norway, 28:48.8 (8).
8. Pasi Puurunen, Finland, 28:49.0 (9).
9. Peter Canins, Italy, 28:50.1 (10).
10. Ljubov Gerasimova, Armenia, 28:54.3 (11).
11. Vladimir Tkachenko, Russia, 28:54.4 (12).
12. Egil Gjelland, Norway, 28:54.5 (13).
13. Risto Grönn, Norway, 28:54.6 (14).
14. Wilfried Paretz, Italy, 28:55.1 (15).
15. Ivan Mokry, Czech Republic, 28:56.6 (16).
16. Jura Palka, Ukraine, 28:56.7 (17).
17. Ricco Gross, Germany, 29:15.9 (18).
18. Dmitri Borovik, Estonia, 29:16.4 (19).
19. Kyoji Suga, Japan, 29:17.4 (20).
20. Hannu Maunula, Finland, 29:18.1 (21).
21. Fredrik Kuusinen, Sweden, 29:22.0 (22).
22. Sergei Tarnavov, Russia, 29:23.2 (23).
23. Waldemar Kozul, Poland, 29:23.4 (24).
24. Dmitry Pavlov, Kazakhstan, 29:23.5 (25).
25. Mikko Lehtinen, Sweden, 29:23.6 (26).
26. Wieslaw Zemanowicz, Poland, 29:24.1 (27).
27. Ole Einar Bjoerndalen, Norway, 29:24.2 (28).
28. Tomasz Sikora, Poland, 29:24.3 (29).
29. Sven Fischer, Germany, 29:24.4 (30).
30. Ruslan Lyssenko, Ukraine, 29:24.5 (31).
31. Volodymyr Semak, Kazakhstan, 29:24.6 (32).
32. Ilmars Birkis, Latvia, 29:24.7 (33).
33. Tomaz Glahnik, Slovenia, 29:24.8 (34).
34. Constant Heymann, Germany, 29:24.9 (35).
35. Hubert Gleboch, Italy, 29:25.0 (36).
36. Andrei Todorov, Estonia, 29:25.1 (37).
37. Aleksandr Alimov, Belarus, 29:25.2 (38).
38. Wolfgang Pernert, Austria, 29:25.3 (39).
39. Wolfgang Rothmann, Austria, 29:25.4 (40).
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45. Andrei Deryzhnev, Ukraine, 29:26.0 (46).
46. Vladimir Semak, Kazakhstan, 29:26.1 (47).
47. Michael Dixon, Britain, 29:26.2 (48).
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